

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Assignment (R) — US
backwood,
champion of
rights. Resigned
on charges of
abuse and
sexual harassment.
The Senate
committee
has been
critical of
the
administration's
handling of
the case.

Senator's over
ual
assessment

Jordanians to return home from Croatia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian troops working with the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Croatia will start returning home as of Sunday. Royal Jordanian planes will bring the two batches of 250 troops to Marka airport, according to sources at the army headquarters in Amman. The sources said that the withdrawal of Jordanian troops follows a plan worked out by the army headquarters in cooperation with the U.N. forces in Zagreb and will be implemented in stages to be completed by the end of the month. The Jordanian troops in the U.N. force number about 3,200 mainly stationed in Croatia for the past three years. Major General Eid Kamel Erweidan, commander of the Jordanian troops in the former Yugoslavia, told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that the decision to pull out the Jordanian troops was taken by the United Nations following Croatian military operations which resulted in Croatia regaining control over areas that were occupied by Serb forces. The U.N. has decided to pull out 11 military battalions from the different countries participating in the peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslavia. Some of these troops have already started withdrawing.

Volume 19 Number 6016

AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1995, RAB' ALTHANI 15, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي

Iraqi minister travels to Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's religious affairs minister travelled to Saudi Arabia Saturday on the first visit by a Baghdad official to the kingdom since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, the state-run Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency said Abdul Munem Saleh was invited by his Saudi counterpart, Abdullah Al Turki, to attend an Islamic meeting in Jeddah on Tuesday. The meeting will group religious affairs ministers of countries member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Jeddah-based OIC serves as a political umbrella of the world's billion Muslims. Iraq's relations with many OIC members have been strained since it invaded Kuwait, a member of the group, in August 1990. Still, it has participated in most OIC functions in recent years, but not in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have vowed never to reconcile with Baghdad before the downfall of Saddam Hussein. They have balked at many Arab mediation efforts launched after Iraqi troops were evicted from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war. Saudi Arabia's official media did not report Mr. Saleh's visit, which was not likely to signal a thaw in relations.

Princess Basma continues contacts at Beijing meeting

BEIJING (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Saturday continued contacts with the heads of Arab and Islamic delegations currently in the Chinese capital to attend the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women. Princess Basma met at her residence in Beijing with Palestinian Minister of Social Development Intisar Al Wazir and discussed with her means of coordinating the stands of technical committees, taking part in the conference and issues of concern to women. Ms. Wazir voiced appreciation of Jordan's support of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in various fields. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian and Palestinian ambassadors in Beijing and other officials. Princess Basma also met with Senator Kamel Sbarif, secretary general of the International Council of Da'wa and Relief. The Princess also conferred with Ahmad Mohammad Ali, head of the Islamic World League, and the two stressed the need to coordinate Arab and Islamic efforts to highlight the role given to women by Islam.

Kuwait arrests 12 Iraqi 'infiltrators'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait security forces have arrested 12 Iraqis who entered the emirate illegally, an Interior Ministry spokesman said on Saturday. He confirmed a report in Al Anba newspaper that said the 12 crossed into Kuwait in the northern Abdali zone of the 210-kilometre desert border on Thursday evening. He had no comment on the rest of the Anba report, which added the Iraqis said they had left Iraq because of "bad living and security conditions." Kuwait troops arrested at least two groups of Iraqi infiltrators in August, including civilians and military personnel, who also said they had left Iraq because of bad living conditions.

Shiite leader freed in Bahrain

NICOSIA (AFP) — Shiite opposition leader Abdul Wahab Hussein was freed by Bahraini authorities after five months in jail for his alleged participation in violent demonstrations, opposition officials said Saturday. Sheikh Hussein was freed Friday as part of an accord between the opposition and the Bahraini government, they told AFP when contacted by telephone from Nicosia. He was arrested after the government accused him of participating in sporadic bloody demonstrations that erupted in the archipelago in December 1994 but had virtually died out by April. Bahraini officials, however, have not released another 150 prisoners as promised, opposition officials said.

Musa to go to OAU talks on security

CAIRO (AFP) — Foreign Minister Amr Musa will travel to Addis Ababa on Sunday for a special meeting of African nations about regional security after the murder bid on President Hosni Mubarak, officials said Saturday. Mr. Musa will attend a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on "everything which concerns security in Africa," a foreign ministry official said. The meeting was called by Ethiopia to protest Khartoum's refusal to extradite three Egyptian militants wanted for the failed attempt on Mr. Mubarak's life in the Ethiopian capital on June 26, the official agency MENA said. Addis Ababa has accused Khartoum of being "wholly responsible" for the gun attack on Mr. Mubarak's motorcade following an investigation welcomed by Cairo, Sudan, which borders both Egypt and Ethiopia, is not a member of the 16-nation OAU.

Security depends on social, and economic as well as military factors -- Regent

Crown Prince says economic development essential to ensuring peace is not disturbed, asks critics of peace to explain alternatives

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Security of any country or region does not solely depend on military strength but is contingent on development of human and natural resources as well as economic and military factors, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Saturday. The Regent, addressing participants in a seminar entitled "Building on Peace: Towards Regional Security and Economic Development in the Middle East," noted that \$200 billion were spent on arms in the Middle East this decade, but such spending has only "fostered insecurity, as adversaries compete in an

ever-escalating spiral."

The Crown Prince also emphasised that the dividends of peace in terms of a better life for the people was also a critical and most essential component of security and stability. "Many Jordanians do not feel yet that they have a real stake in peace," said the Regent. "It is true that some in Jordan feel that making peace with Israel was a terrible mistake; indeed that the very peace process is misconceived. "We believe that the doubts will not be silenced by repression but by the tangible benefits of the peace dividend," he added. The Regent called for an

"informed debate" on peace.

"The opponents of peace must spell out to their public the implications of continued conflict," he said. "They must explain the alternatives to peace and what it would mean for all of us. They must make clear that to reject peace is to embrace war, and that war offers no future but fear and death." Describing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty as a "momentous achievement," the Regent said it also "heralds a fresh start in a conflict resolution and crisis management." "Indeed it promises to transform the region, providing a historic opportunity to chart a bold new course for

the future, governed by mutual acceptance and respect, and founded upon a vision of peace and cooperation," the Regent told the gathering, which included Jordanian, American, Israeli and Arab officials and representatives of organisations. The Regent's speech launched the three-day seminar, which opens its formal sessions on Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre. It is organised by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy in cooperation with Jordan's Institute of Diplomacy. The Regent told the participants that security must be defined in a broader context.

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. military buildup in Gulf largest since war

ABOARD THE USS NEW ORLEANS (Agencies) — The United States has 43 warships in the Gulf to deter any possible Iraqi threat to its neighbours in the largest naval buildup in the oil-rich region since the 1991 Gulf war. "This is the largest number of American ships in the Gulf since the Gulf war," Captain Richard Ormsbee, commander of an amphibious squadron, told reporters on Saturday. "The mission is deterrence. The mission is pressure (against Iraq)," said Capt. Ormsbee of the force, which includes aircraft carriers and support ships. The U.S. stepped up its activity in the region last month after Jordan granted asylum to two senior Iraqi defectors, one of whom called for the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, triggering fresh tension in the Gulf. U.S. forces brought forward joint exercises with Kuwait after what the U.S.

called unusual Iraqi military activity in Baghdad and southern Iraq. U.S. officials on Saturday said Washington, which is seeking to set up pre-positioned military hardware sites throughout the Gulf, currently has some 22,000 troops deployed in the Gulf area aboard warships and on the ground. At the United Nations, the United States on Friday called for a re-evaluation of long-term U.N. monitoring of Iraq's weapons potential while Britain urged Baghdad to reconsider a limited oil sales deal it had rejected earlier. American and British envoys spoke during Security Council consultations at which it was decided to make no change in the sanctions — including an oil sales ban — imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Scrapping of Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic missile potential and long-term monitoring to en-

sure it does not reacquire forbidden arms are key conditions for any easing of the oil sanctions. The council was conducting its regular 60-day review on sanctions, the first since Iraq revealed last month it had loaded 200 bombs and warheads with lethal germs and toxins and had launched a crash programme to test a nuclear bomb in 1991. "Iraq has totally squandered what little credibility, if any, it had," U.S. Deputy Ambassador Edward Gnehm said. "We should now re-evaluate the long-term monitoring regime to ensure it is adequate to prevent a resurgence of the programme," he added. Britain proposed that council President Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy ask Baghdad to reconsider a limited oil sales deal to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. Mr. Fulci is to convey the message to Iraq's U.N.

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. admits civilians hit in raids on Serbs; NATO strikes continue

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — United Nations troops apparently killed and wounded Bosnian Serb civilians while trying to knock out a rebel missile launcher near Sarajevo, U.N. officials said Saturday. It was the first admission by the United Nations or North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) that civilians might have been killed or injured since NATO started bombing Bosnian Serb targets 10 days ago. The U.N. rapid reaction force on Mount Igman has fired more than 1,200 shells on Serb guns around Sarajevo. Bosnian Serb media claimed 10 patients and hospital staff were killed and 22 wounded Friday when U.N. rapid reaction force artillery shells struck a hospital in Blazuj village west of Sarajevo. "It does appear that we missed our target and civilians were killed," U.N. spokesman Major Guy Vinet said. But U.N. officials could not confirm hitting the hospital, and they offered no estimates on how many civilians had been killed. Despite significant steps towards peace Friday in

Geneva, NATO continued airstrikes to get the rebel Serbs to remove guns from around Sarajevo, reopen aid routes into the city and stop attacking other U.N. safe areas. The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA also claimed that 11 other people were killed and 17 wounded late Thursday in a NATO attack on Zijemlje village, near the southwestern city of Mostar. As with other such Serb claims — consistently rejected by NATO — there was no independent confirmation. On Friday, negotiators agreed to keep Bosnia as a single country but divide it into two entities: one for the rebel Serbs and another for the Muslims and Croats. The deal did not include a ceasefire. The Serbs, perhaps buoyed by their diplomatic success in winning virtual recognition for their self-proclaimed state, fired six surface-to-air missiles early Saturday at 60 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo. In Naples, a NATO spokesman said NATO planes carried out "self-defence" air raids overnight

after they were targeted by Bosnian Serb radars. "In the frame of the Operation Deliberate Force NATO aircraft, after having been illuminated by anti-aircraft radars by the Bosnian Serbs, launched their missiles," Takis Teodorakidis, a spokesman for NATO's southern Europe command, said. The airstrikes took place in northern Bosnia, he added. Earlier a NATO southern Europe command spokesman said the missions were continuing. Targets include munitions depots, communications installations, command posts and bridges. The spokesman added that weather conditions had improved in Bosnia Saturday. Poor weather on Friday had limited NATO sorties. "It's clear and sunny there. The operations will be unrestricted," he said. Asked about the effect of the raids on the accord reached in Geneva Friday between the warring sides in former Yugoslavia, the spokesman replied: "Geneva has nothing to do with military operations."

(Continued on page 7)

Powell had nuclear plan in Gulf war

NEW YORK (R) — Retired U.S. General Colin Powell says he prepared a secret report on using nuclear weapons during the Gulf war and then destroyed it because the plan would have been a disaster. In an excerpt from his autobiography to be published in Time magazine Sunday, Mr. Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney asked him to explore hypothetical nuclear strike options against Iraqi units. He said his first response was: "We're not going to let that genie loose." Mr. Cheney agreed but pressed Mr. Powell to find out anyway because he was curious. He said he then prepared the report and added: "The results unnerved me. To do serious damage to just one armoured division dispersed in the desert would require a considerable number of small tactical nuclear weapons. I showed this analysis to Cheney and then I had it destroyed."

In his autobiography called "My American Journey," Mr. Powell also recalled several shouting matches with field commander General Norman Schwarzkopf on how to conduct the war, saying that Gen. Schwarzkopf "under pressure was an active volcano." In one heated argument, Gen. Schwarzkopf wanted to delay the start of the war, arguing that there would be increased casualties otherwise. "That did it. I had harked Norm at every step, fended off his critics with one hand while soothing his anxieties with the other," Mr. Powell wrote. He added that he told Gen. Schwarzkopf: "Don't you pull that on me. Don't you try to lay a patronising guilt trip on me." Mr. Powell also defends ending the war after four days without completely destroying Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's elite Republican Guard troops or carrying the fight on to Baghdad to oust the Iraqi leader from power. "What tends to be forgotten is that while the United States led the way, we were heading an international coalition carrying out a clearly defined U.N. mission. That mission was accomplished."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday addresses participants in a seminar on Middle East peace, security and economic development (Petra photo)

Sharif Zeid defuses crisis over judges' resignation

By Ahmad Kreishan

SPECIAL TO THE JORDAN TIMES
AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Saturday ended the crisis that began with the reported resignation of 23 judges from the Supreme Court and the Court of Cassation by announcing that the government will respond favourably to their demands. The judges were earlier reported to have submitted to the government a number of demands to improve their living and working conditions and when they received no reply they tendered their resignations, which were kept on hold pending government consideration. The prime minister told a group of judges led by Khleif Suheimat, president of the Higher Judicial Council, that the government would meet all the judges' demands. Mr. Suheimat was autho-

rising by the resigning judges to present the demands and to negotiate with the government on their behalf. The judges demanded comprehensive health insurance scheme, salary raises and an independent budget for the judiciary. But Suheimat said he presented to the prime minister the following demands for which he received favourable response and these were: — Enhancing the independence of the judiciary in deed; — Amending legislation related to the independence of the judiciary; — Enhancement of laws that will cover the judges with a comprehensive health insurance system. According to Judge Suheimat, Sharif Zeid affirmed his full support for the judiciary and the judges' demands. Judge Suheimat expressed satisfaction with the results of

his meeting with the prime minister, saying that the government was keen on cementing cooperation between the executive, legislative and judiciary authorities. "The government is acting in light of the royal letter of designation, which emphasised respect for the judicial authority's independence," according to Judge Suheimat, who denied that the judges' demands included material privileges or personal benefits. The judges are to hold a meeting in two days to discuss the situation and to declare their decision to withdraw their resignations which were to have taken effect as of Oct. 1, 1995. All the resigning judges have more than 25 years of service and they have a legal prerogative to opt for retirement. But they cannot exercise that prerogative collectively.

Jordan-Israel accords on transport, trade to be signed soon -- Muasher

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher was quoted as saying Saturday that Jordanian-Israeli trade and transport agreements will determine the relationship between the two countries to a great extent and will have positive effects that will benefit even the Palestinians. Speaking in an interview with Al Ouds Arabia daily published in Jerusalem, Dr. Muasher said that the transport agreement will enable the two countries to operate regular bus services between Jordanian and Palestinian towns while the trade agreement will open the way for trade between Jordan on the one hand and the West Bank

and Israel on the other. The agreements signed by Jordan and Israel guarantee Jordan's rights and safeguards Jordanian interests and will also be beneficial to the Palestinians, the ambassador added. Problems had cropped up during the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, he said, but the two sides were able to overcome these issues and will sign these agreements within one month. Jordan will soon allow private cars from Israel and Jordan to cross into each other's territory after the agreement on transport is signed. Jordan will change the licence plates of Israeli cars upon entering Jordanian

territory replacing them with temporary Jordanian plates but the Jordanian plates on Jordanian private cars will not be subject to a similar measure upon entering Israeli territory under the agreement. The Palestinians will not be able to come to Jordan in their own cars and that the existing system of transporting Palestinians by bus across the River Jordan will be retained, Dr. Muasher said. Dr. Muasher denied reports that Jordan will be allowed to use Kalandia airport north of Jerusalem because Jordan considers

(Continued on page 7)

3 out of 5 French oppose N-tests

PARIS (Agencies) — Three out of five French people are opposed to the resumption of nuclear testing, according to a poll to appear in the weekly Journal du Dimanche on Sunday. The first poll to be published since France conducted the first of an announced series of nuclear tests Tuesday at Mururoa atoll found that 60 per cent of the 957 people surveyed were against the tests, while 36 per cent approved. Among those who identified themselves as left-wing, a full 84 per cent opposed the testing, 13 per cent approved and three per cent were undecided. Right-wing respondents were in favour of the testing

Hebron should be part of PLO deal, Egypt says

CAIRO (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Amr Musa said on Saturday that Egypt backs the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) demand for Israel to include Hebron in an agreement on expanding self-rule in the West Bank. "Bypassing the issue of Hebron might threaten the whole peace process, and any talk on peaceful settlement will become worthless," Mr. Musa told reporters. Two days of marathon talks between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres which ended in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabu on Friday failed to produce an agreement, mainly because of differences over Hebron. The West Bank town that is home to 120,000 Palestinians and some 400 Jewish settlers has been a flashpoint of violence and now deeply divides negotiators. Mr. Arafat's spokesman

Marwan Kanafani said on Friday that Palestinians would not concede on the principle that Israeli troops must evacuate almost all the town before Palestinian elections take place. Palestinians say they would accept a limited and temporary Israeli troop presence to protect the settlers but are looking for an assured timetable for their eventual departure too. Mr. Musa said Egypt would contact the Israelis to try to break the impasse. Palestinian and Israeli negotiators are to resume talks in Eilat on Sunday to discuss Hebron and other issues. Hamas call on Libya Meanwhile, the militant group Hamas on Saturday called on Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to reverse his decision to expel Palestinian workers, saying he had

(Continued on page 7)

Syria, Iran and Turkey decry alleged plot to dismember Iraq

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran, Syria and Turkey on Friday decry an alleged plot to dismember Iraq amid intra-Kurdish fighting in the north and political turmoil in the capital, Baghdad.

A joint statement released in Tehran after a meeting of the Iranian, Syrian and Turkish foreign ministers also said that international punitive measures against Saddam Hussein's regime "should not be to the detriment of the people of that country."

The meeting coincided with a U.N. Security Council decision Friday to extend the 5-year-old trade embargo of Iraq for another two months.

The statement expressed sympathy for the people of Iraq, where shortages in basic supplies have caused widespread hunger and diseases, but stopped short of calling for an end to the embargo.

Syria and Turkey were key members of the international coalition that routed Iraqi forces in Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

Iran stayed out of that conflict. But it had fought Iraq for eight years in the 1980-88 war, and relations between them remain marred with distrust.

The Tehran meeting was attended by foreign ministers Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria and Erdal Inonu of Turkey.

"The division of Iraq would have dangerous consequences for peace and stability both at the regional and international levels," said the statement, carried by Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Later at a joint news conference, the ministers deplored alleged efforts to meddle in Iraq's internal affairs. "It is the people of Iraq who should decide the future of their country," Mr. Velayati told reporters, according to IRNA.

Mr. Velayati said that the absence of Iraqi government control in northern Iraq had encouraged the infighting among Kurds.

As neighbours of Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran "cannot afford to be indifferent to that (Kurdish) region so that outsiders are free to do whatever they like," he said.

"Foreign countries are plotting to dismember Iraq, but I think they will not succeed in their sinister goals," added Mr. Velayati.

Fighting in northern Iraq is currently between the Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the main Iraqi Kurdish groups, and the Turkish Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

The separatist PKK, which uses bases in northern Iraq to wage a guerrilla campaign in Turkey, attacked the KDP last week in an apparent effort to torpedo a U.S.-brokered peace accord between the KDP and its main Iraqi rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The PKK had exploited earlier fighting between the Iraqi factions to step up its campaign in Turkey. A peace pact between the KDP and PUK would severely impede the PKK's ability to operate from northern Iraq.

The self-rule Kurdish zone there emerged from a safe haven established by the Gulf war allies in 1991 to protect Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds from Baghdad regime's vengeance after an ill-fated rebellion.

Iran and Turkey, whose Kurdish minorities are particularly troublesome, oppose the emergence of an independent Kurdish state in Iraq for fear it will encourage their restive Kurds.

There are some 10 million in Turkey and 5.5 million in Iran.

Iraq's neighbours feel that political vacuum in Iraq could fragment the country into a Kurdish-controlled north, Sunni Muslim centre and Shiite Muslim south if the Baghdad regime collapses.

That regime was badly jolted by the defection last month of Hussein Kamel, Saddam Hussein's son-in-law and the brains behind Iraq's clandestine programme to produce weapons of mass destruction.



ANTI-SANCTIONS PROTEST: Iraqi women, holding placards and posters, demonstrate in Baghdad to demand an end to the international sanctions against their country. The U.N. Security Council on Friday decided to extend the sanctions for another 60 days amid signs that serious discussions on lifting the crippling trade embargo might not come for months (see page 1 and 12)

Rushdie 'comes out' -- but fatwa is still hanging heavy

LONDON (AP) — Salman Rushdie called his first pre-announced public appearance in six years a "coming out party," but the Iranian death sentence that sent him into hiding was still pervasive.

"The problem hasn't gone away just because I'm able to stand here," the British writer told a packed hall in central London on Thursday. "The Iranian government will still not give a written guarantee to call off the fatwa, or death sentence."

Mr. Rushdie said earlier that he hoped his predicament would not take centre stage at the event, a panel discussion on "Writers Against the State" sponsored by the Times of London.

"It will be nice to resume the normal process of discussing literature within the context of a public meeting rather than the abnormal situation once present," he told the British national news agency Press Association.

Unlikely — and Mr. Rushdie knew it. He began by saying, "thank you for coming to this little coming out party," and followed that with "as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted."

Mr. Rushdie's life was turned upside down after he had incurred the wrath of the late Ayatollah Khomeini with his 1989 novel "The Satanic Verses." The book included satirical treatments of the Islamic faith.

The Iranian leader issued the fatwa, and his government backed it up with the promise of \$1 million award to whoever carried out the deed. Mr. Rushdie promptly went underground.

He would occasionally reemerge for a surprise appearance — joking around with U.S. talk-show host David Letterman, reviewing the Rolling Stones voodoo lounge concert at Wembley (he sang along), warbling with Bono at a U2 concert.

Meanwhile, European government representatives cajoled and threatened cash-strapped Iran, until this June the Islamic state made a verbal commitment that it would no longer back any assassination attempt.

It was not enough for Mr. Rushdie's backers, who are maintaining their call for a boycott of Iran until it commits in writing. "But it led Scotland Yard — with whom Mr. Rushdie has developed a close, a personal relationship — to clear the way for Thursday evening's event."

For the first time since the fatwa, a Rushdie event was advertised a week in advance. The venue — a Methodist church hall with in shouting distance of the houses of parliament — was sold out.

Only one Muslim demonstrator showed, handing out "Decency Vs. Obscenity" leaflets. "Others probably don't want to give him the prominence," said the demonstrator, who refused to be identified.

Mr. Rushdie was joined on the stage by other novelists well-known in Britain: Martin Amis ("The Information"), Fay Weldon ("The Life and Loves of a She-Devil") and Melvyn Bragg ("A Time to Dance").

But it was Rushdie the faithful ran the security gauntlet and paid £10 (£16) a ticket to see.

Dwarfed by a gargantuan church organ, wearing a sensible dark suit and a gray tie, his faithful laughed at every joke and applauded each pronouncement.

He enjoyed the attention, hampering up a reading from his latest, acclaimed novel, "The Moor's Last Sigh," with Indian and Russian accents. He cheerfully debated Roland Barthes' notions with the audience, summing up the French structuralist's views as being "the writer does not know what he is doing — but the critic does."

Only the inevitable return to politics brought Mr. Rushdie down. When one Muslim told him he enjoyed "The Satanic Verses" except for some chapters he found unnecessary, Mr. Rushdie snapped: "What can I say about unnecessary chapters? I disagree with you; I thought they were necessary."

Mr. Rushdie said that the theme of writers against the state was not entirely appropriate to a British venue.

"I have been personally the beneficiary of a great deal of backing from the state," he noted. "The police know how much I appreciate what they have done for me... we have been collaborators in a great adventure."

He said he hoped that from now on he could deflect attention away from his own trials, and focus on writers persecuted in countries like Nigeria, China, Turkey and Algeria. He announced plans to raise funds for censored writers.

Antagonising the powers that be was a necessary function of the writer, Mr. Rushdie said — and was becoming more dangerous. "Voltaire advised writers to live near a frontier, so they could nip across," he said. "That is no longer a safeguard."

2 Saudis executed for sodomy, murder

DUBAI (R) — Two Saudis were executed in Saudi Arabia after being convicted in two separate cases of sodomy and murder, a Saudi newspaper said on Saturday.

Dhawihi Ben Mohammad Ben Nasser Al Sahli was found guilty of being the ringleader of a gang that kidnapped boys, raped them, stole cars and robbed homes. He was beheaded in Riyadh on Friday, the English-language Saudi Gazette newspaper said.

Saudi radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said 11 of his accomplices received prison terms of between two and 15 years with additional punishment of 200 to 1,500 lashes of the whip at 50 lashes a time.

The Saudi Gazette said another Saudi, Humaidi Ben Ghazi Ben Hanool Al Harbi, was beheaded in Bureida on Friday for killing another Saudi following a dispute between them.

Public beheading by the sword in line with Sharia Islamic law are usually carried out in Saudi Arabia after the noon Friday prayers. But executions have risen sharply this year and beheadings are carried out throughout the week.

Since last Friday, 20 people, including seven Indian men convicted of robbery and murder and two Saudi nationals found guilty of rape, have been beheaded in the kingdom, bringing the total since Jan. 1 to 168.

According to unofficial counts, 53 people were beheaded in Saudi Arabia in 1994 while 85 were executed the previous year.

Libya threatens to withdraw from games

ROME (R) — Libya has threatened to pull out of the first world military games unless its athletes are allowed to wear shirts with a slogan protesting against United Nations sanctions, organisers said.

Libya was cautioned by officials this week after its soccer team wore shirts with the slogan "nonembargo" during a match against host country Italy last Sunday.

The head of the Libyan delegation, Colonel Ahmad Al Shabi, said Libya would withdraw if the slogan was banned.

"If (the organisers) insist in their request, we are seriously considering pulling our team out," he said.

The 88 Libyans competing in the games have also worn track suits with the words "Nonembargo" around a design showing a clenched fist gripping a U.S. warplane.

The United States has a large contingent of military personnel at the games.

The words and the symbol do not offend anyone," said Col. Shabi. "They merely express the protest of the Libyan people against an embargo that has caused a lot of damage."

The U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions against Libya in 1992 for Tripoli's refusal to hand over for trial two suspects indicted in the United States and Britain over the bombing of a Pan Am Airliner in December 1988.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mahdi to be elected imam of Ansar

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese religious sect of Ansar will elect former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi as its imam, a Khartoum independent daily reported Saturday. Akhbar Al Yom said the imam of the Ansar mosque in Omdurman announced Friday that "there is a consensus for electing Sadeq Al Mahdi as an imam for the Ansar." The sect's last imam was Al Hadi Al Mahdi, who was killed by former President Jaafar Numeiri in 1970 and since then the prestigious office has remained vacant. It seems that Ahmad Al Mahdi, an uncle of Sadeq Al Mahdi, who aspired for the office since the death of his brother, has relinquished contesting for it in favour of his nephew. The Ansar sect is the popular base of the now dissolved political Umma Party which is headed by Sadeq Al Mahdi.

Afghan minister ends visit to Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Afghan Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafrai wound up a visit here focused on the Taliban militia's capture of all of western Afghanistan bordering Iran, Afghan sources said Saturday. They said Mr. Lafrai left on Thursday night with General Abdullah, the Afghan defence ministry spokesman whom the Taliban said they captured while taking the city of Herat. The foreign minister held "secret" talks with Iranian officials since Tuesday, when the government lost control of Herat and the western province of the same name. Iran reacted by sealing its border with Afghanistan and warned the militia, led by religious students, to stay clear of border regions with the Islamic republic. The Foreign Ministry on Friday urged Afghan factions to stop fighting.

Sudan hands over 4 wanted men to Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudanese authorities have handed over four wanted Libyan Muslim fundamentalists to Tripoli, the Arab newspaper Al Hayat reported Saturday. The London-based daily said the extradition took place during a visit by Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir for the 26th anniversary of the Libyan revolution on September 1. Libyan authorities blamed Islamic extremist infiltrators from Sudan and Egypt for troubles which broke out in the eastern city of Benghazi in June. Travellers to Egypt and Arab diplomats here have said around 30 people were killed in clashes between police and Muslim extremists on Wednesday, in a new outbreak of violence in Benghazi. Tripoli denied the reports.

Israeli held for attempted rape

NICOSIA (AFP) — An Israeli tourist has been arrested on suspicion of trying a rape an Irish maid in the Cypriot coastal resort of Ayia Napa, police said Saturday. Police said the woman, aged 24 like the suspect Ilan Ishag Harpej, was sleeping when a man climbed through her apartment window early on Friday morning. She told police the man jumped on her and tried to rape her, but her cries alerted a flatmate who came in and scared the assailant away. The Israeli tourist, who also holds a South African passport, was arrested later the same day. He arrived on the island only hours before the attempted rape.

Sudanese students seek colleagues' release

KHARTOUM (R) — About 20 students held a silent demonstration at Sudan's Khartoum University on Saturday to demand the release of three colleagues arrested a week ago, witnesses said. The students lined up along a street which runs through the campus and displayed placards calling for their colleagues' release. One of the students told Reuters the three detained students had been arrested for political reasons but did not elaborate. The University of Khartoum, the oldest and the most prestigious institution of higher learning in Sudan, has been the hotbed of opposition to successive governments in Khartoum. Last July, about 4,000 students demonstrated against Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir while he was addressing another group of students.

Workers hold sit-in in northern Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Several hundred workers staged a sit-in at a textile factory in a northern Iranian city on Saturday to protest at being laid off by their new management, residents of the city said. Chanting Allahu Akbar, the workers camped on a main street in Ghaem-Shahr, demanding to be reinstated and paid their four-month backlog of salaries, they said. The factory had been sold to the private sector as part of a government programme to privatise industry and make it more efficient. Police and anti-riot units of the elite Revolutionary Guards sealed off the street and forced the workers to leave and hold their protest at the site of the factory, residents said. Labour unrest has been on the rise in Iran as more companies are transferred to the private sector, which has been laying off workers in over-stuffed factories. The government nationalised many industrial units after the 1979 Islamic revolution, but most of them soon began incurring losses. Iranian labour law does not explicitly recognise the right of workers to strike although it allows them to stop work provided they remain at the site of their factory.

EU to step up pressure on Turkey

SANTANDER (R) — European Union (EU) foreign ministers agreed on Saturday to throw their weight behind efforts to ensure that a key customs union deal with Turkey goes through by the end of the year. There will be a two-pronged strategy, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told reporters during a break on the first day of a two-day meeting. "First to persuade Turkey that its constitutional changes are not enough, and second to put pressure on the European Parliament to approve the accord," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 The Flintstones
14:30 Joshua Jones
14:45 The Nighty Night
15:00 Pugsall Summer
15:30 Time Riders
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Rahan
17:30 Telfair — Le J.A.P.
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ughua
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Cinema, Cinema
20:00 Nurses
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Stanbhair
22:00 News in English
22:30 Drama — Countess
23:10 Return to Eden
00:30 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES
04:52 Fajr
06:11 Sunrise
12:33 Dhuhr
16:06 Asr
18:54 Maghreb
20:12 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology, Amman.
Forecast for the next two days with winds northwesterly moderate. In Agaha, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 18/31
Agaha 25 / 39

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 17 / 34
Jordan Valley 24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Agaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Agaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Bassam Karadabeh 799201
Dr. Osama Husaid 847299
Dr. Munir Al Khatib 733078
Dr. Fakher Bilbisi 663412
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 782336
Al Azema pharmacy 678055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636731
Nadab pharmacy 644445
Shawest pharmacy 637461
Sawouh pharmacy 636782
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari 272052
Alqada pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushashneh 963423

Khalilieh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696291
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Directory assistance 01230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husain Medical Centre 813813/332
Khafji Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Akilieh Maternity, J. Ann 644211/2
Jahat Amman Maternity 643262
Maltha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesani 664171/4
Shmiesani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 85845
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Ardali 666127/37
Bilal, Al-Mahajreen 771102/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 607155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 0998332/3
Zarqa National Hospital 09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09906732
Al Hilana Modern Hospital 09909090
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 85159
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02327355
Greek Catholic Hospital 02327275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 02347401

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08153200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Agaba (RJ)
06:25 Madrid (RJ)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 London (RJ)
18:50 Zagreb (add) (RJ)
19:00 Paris (RJ)
19:15 Brussels, Zagreb (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Paris (RJ)
18:15 London (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
19:25 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Bangkok (RJ)
06:30 Agaba (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
09:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:05 Dharan, Riyadh (RJ)
10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Beirut (RJ)
11:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:15 Brussels, Zagreb (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Paris (RJ)
18:15 London (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
19:25 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 600 / 400
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Carrot 140 / 80
Cauliflower 380/280
Lettuce 250/180
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 280 / 180
Eggplant 200 / 150
Gorilla 360/260
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 750/600
Guava 750/650
Lemon 370/270
Marrow (large) 250 / 150
Marrow (small) 420 / 320
Mulkhiya 150 / 100
Okra 800 / 700

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:30 Rome (AZ)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Sanaa (YV)
13:30 Riyadh (add) (SV)
14:30 Doha (GF)
16:05 Moscow (SU)
21:25 Cairo (MS)
01:05 Beirut, London (BA)
02:35 Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Athens (OA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:30 Sanaa (YV)
12:40 Riyadh (add) (SV)
13:40 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
14:30 Moscow (SU)
16:15 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
22:20 London, Beirut (BA)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:30 Athens (OA)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)
02:30 London (RJ)

British Airways official says airline looks to profit from state of peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The state of peace between Jordan and Israel and the traditional stability and security in the Kingdom have caught the attention of major tour operators around the world, and British Airways seeks to have its share of the market while also contributing to developing tourism to Jordan, a senior BA official said Saturday.

John Watson, senior sales manager of BA and the third senior-most executive in the British carrier, was speaking at the formal opening of a new BA office in Amman by Minister of Tourism Abdul Lah Khatib.

"We are pleased that we have the opportunity not only of offering passengers premium travel to Jordan, but of bringing the people here to Jordan, for business as well as tourism," Mr. Watson said.

Mr. Khatib said the decision by the BA to expand its facilities in Jordan was a reflection of the increasing interest of the international community in the tourism

potential that the Kingdom offers.

In comments to the Jordan Times after the formal ceremony where he also named Hasweb Corporation as BA's general sales agent in Jordan, Mr. Watson said the carrier was not looking for "mass tourism" and was instead focusing on "tourists who are selective, who want good value and services for money and who can afford to pay well."

According to Mr. Watson, BA will be bringing in tourists who want to use four and five-star hotels and all accompanying services such as well-organised trips to areas of touristic interest "in an atmosphere of relaxation and comfort."

In this context, Mr. Watson, who drove around Jordan and visited Petra since his arrival two days ago, paid tribute to the state of stability and security in Jordan.

"If you drive around a country for some time, you get a feel of the country, and the feeling I get in Jordan is very comfortable," said Mr. Watson, adding that he was impressed by the state of security — as reflected in the very absence of police points and security checks — as opposed to some other countries in the region.

"When peace comes to a

region, it attracts the attention of people around the world," noted Mr. Watson.

He said a tourism awareness drive was needed to translate the interests into actual visits, and that British Airways was doing what it could to complement Jordan's own efforts to market itself and what it could offer to tourists in terms of tourist attractions and services.

In the same vein, while Jordan does suffer from a shortage of hotel rooms, "what is available here is good quality and offer good services," he said.

Joint packages combining Jordan, Egypt and Israel are among the projects under consideration by BA, he said, noting that many tourists would like to take the best advantage of being in a particularly country by taking in nearby places of interest also in their tour.

British Airways resumed its Amman flights in December after a five-year hiatus.

It started with two weekly flights and then increased it to four.

Mr. Watson said, "I feel sure that our potential will be fully realised and I'm confident that British Airways will be offering a daily service to London before too long."

UNRWA employees to stage sit-in to protest dismissal of colleague

By Ghaila Alui
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — UNRWA employees will stage a sit-in Monday in front of the agency's headquarters in protest against the dismissal of the dean of the Educational Sciences Faculty, Izzeddin Manasrah.

The sit-in, which is to take place at 2:00 p.m., is organised by the UNRWA teachers executive committee, general services committee, labour committee, general presidency in Amman and the student council at the faculty. The organisers described the decision as "arbitrary."

The sit-in will be the latest in a series of protests in which the refugee camp representatives, labour committees and UNRWA workers have expressed their rejection of Dr. Manasrah's dismissal. The dean was dismissed for publicly protesting against the closure of the sciences faculty.

In a letter to UNRWA Commissioner General Izzeddin Turkmen, refugee camp representatives urged him to reverse what they called the "harsh and unjust" decision to dismiss the dean.

They added that UNRWA's decision was a "violation of human rights," and a contradiction of the agency's adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that guarantees the freedom of expression.

Dr. Manasrah's dismissal also outraged the student council, which said in its letter of protest, made available to the Jordan Times, that the decision was "insensitive to the students' feelings."

In the letter, the students said that they saw the decision as a warning to students and UNRWA workers that releasing any information on agency's activities "which threatens the future of Palestinian refugees" would be punishable.

Dr. Manasrah was dismissed last Tuesday for publicly protesting against UNRWA's decision to close down the faculty.

The director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan Elej. Saf said in a letter sent to the dean and made available to the Jordan Times that Dr. Manasrah was dismissed in accordance with an internal UNRWA staff regulation as of Sept. 5.

Dr. Manasrah had criticised what he called UNRWA's "faulty political decision" to shut down the faculty in two articles published in Al-Rai newspaper. He was consequently summoned by the agency for questioning over his protests and was warned that talking to the press constituted a violation of the agency's staff rules and regulations.

But the dean reported the meeting to the Jordan Times and reiterated his protest against the closure of the faculty which UNRWA later postponed for one year after consultations with the government and Palestine National Authority.

"Dr. Manasrah's dismissal was intentional and arbitrary," the source said. Monday's sit-in will escalate the tension between UNRWA and its workers ahead of Mr. Turkmen's visit to Jordan on Sept. 15.

UNRWA employees were dismayed with what they called UNRWA's "unjustified reduction of services," it offers to Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA labour committees, which represent 6,000 UNRWA employees, have postponed a strike originally scheduled for Sept. 4 pending talks with Mr. Turkmen.

"If the results of the talks are positive, we will cancel the strike, if not, we will go on strike Sept. 18," Mohammed Muheisen, president of the Local Employees Union at UNRWA, told the Jordan Times last Sunday.

The strike, which was planned by the union, was to press demands for better health, education and social services as well as improved terms for end-of-service compensations and salary increases compatible with the rising cost of living.

Jordan opens Flanders international exhibition

GHENT, Belgium (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser and Prince Philip of Belgium Saturday opened the Flanders International exhibition in which Jordan is participating as a guest of honour.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb delivered Jordan's address expressing the Kingdom's pride at being the guest of honour at the event which marks the exhibition's 50th anniversary.

Noting that Jordan maintains strong ties with Belgium and all Western European countries, the minister said the Kingdom's participation coincides with current Jordanian efforts in cooperation with Europe to build a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Expressing hope that the

Jordanian participation in the exhibition will help further promote economic cooperation with Europe, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the event comes at a time when Jordan is pursuing negotiations with the European Union to conclude a new economic cooperation agreement with the community.

The audience later watched Jordanian folklore performances presented by the Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe to the tunes of the Jordan Armed Forces brass band.

The Jordanian wing displays industrial products plus phosphates, potash and chemical fertilisers, food products, Dead Sea salts and pharmaceuticals as well as electronic and electrical appliances.

The display also includes samples of fresh Jordanian

produce and items depicting Jordan's archaeological sites and leaflets and posters about the Kingdom's tourist and historical attractions as well as traditional handicrafts and a collection of paintings by Jordanian artists.

The Jordanian delegation accompanying Mr. Abul Ragheb will organise an economic seminar to orient the European businessmen on investment opportunities in the Kingdom and to prepare the ground for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due in Amman next month.

Earlier Mr. Abul Ragheb held meetings with the Belgian minister of industry and trade and delivered to him a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, dealing with the MENA conference.

IAF criticises court order summoning deputy

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Saturday criticised a recent court order calling Parliament Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant to court on charges of disrupting the peace on Oct. 28 following a Friday prayer.

Mohammad Oweidah, assistant secretary general of the IAF, the largest opposition party, criticised orders of a south Amman court which is trying 24 people accused of disrupting the peace following the October 28 mosque attack.

Dr. Oweidah said that Deputy Abu Zant's name was mentioned as a suspect

last week at the court hearing.

According to Dr. Oweidah, Deputy Abu Zant was attacked after prayers in October and was mentioned in court as a witness at first, "but we were surprised to learn that he became a suspect during court hearings."

After the incident in Abu Hureira Mosque in Jabal Al Akhdar in which the Sheikh was injured, police apprehended 24 people and charged them with physically assaulting Deputy Abu Zant, Dr. Oweidah told the Jordan Times Saturday.

A few weeks later, he added, "the 24 (accused) along with Sheikh Abu Zant were charged with attacking security officers at the

mosque."

According to the Constitution, deputies are immune from having to appear in court unless Parliament lifts their immunity.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Sour, last week told journalists that the House had not received any request to lift Sheikh Abu Zant's immunity.

The Sheikh had been treated at King Hussein Medical Centre for minor injuries after the incident.

Government officials then said that the deputy was hurt in clashes inside the mosque during Friday's prayers.

"The IAF is objecting to the court order to arrest Sheikh Abu Zant who enjoys

immunity," Dr. Oweidah maintained.

The Sheikh's immunity ends after the conclusion of the current extraordinary session of Parliament expected to conclude this month.

Deputy Abu Zant was involved in a few other parliamentary disputes including one on Jan. 25 with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abadi. The argument arose when Sheikh Abu Zant demanded that the minister provide the House with a full list of names of mosque preachers, dates of their appointments and the names of all retired preachers.

Deputy Abu Zant accused the minister of using improper terms, ignorance



Abdul Munem Abu Zant

of basic Arabic and lacking knowledge of his ministry's internal status. The deputy, who is currently visiting Iraq, is expected to return to Jordan in the next few days, Dr. Oweidah said.

New industrial estates to go up around country

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has acquired land in Ma'an, Tafleib, Karak and Salt with plans for the establishment of new industrial cities, according to a JIEC report released Saturday.

Jordan already has two industrial cities, one in Sahab near Amman and one

near Irbid.

Studies are under way for the commencement of work on these new industrial cities after demand grew for more factories to be built, the report stated.

There is special concern that these factories are built in zones far away from residential areas, the report added.

The Sahab Industrial City, which was set up in 1984, now has 425 factories. The Al Hassan Industrial City, set up in 1991 in Irbid, has 50 factories, according to the report.

The JIEC usually lays infrastructure and civil works for industrial zones before factories start operating.

In reference to last year's developments, the report said that 11 new factories started operations at the Sahab Industrial City in 1994 with a total capital of JD 5.5 million, and created 200 new jobs.

Factories at Sahab produce medicines, veterinary medicine, wooden and metal furniture, home and electronic

appliances, chemicals and dairy products.

Al Hassan Industrial City has a total capital of JD 43 million and employs 1000 workers. Factories there produce chemicals, confectionaries and electric bulbs, according to the report.

Last month the JIEC said it was expanding the Al Hassan Industrial City.

Ministry promises support to library association

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh Saturday opened a two-day conference by the Jordan Library Association (JLA) with the participation of librarians from Jordan, Palestine and Iraq.

Mr. Habashneh praised the JLA's efforts in promoting library services in Jordan and noted that the Ministry of Culture was planning to support the JLA morally and materially in order to help it achieve its objectives.

Mr. Habashneh requested that the JLA pursue the

implementation of its previous conferences saying that they contribute to encouraging the work of libraries in promoting good reading habits.

Recently the Ministry of Culture has endorsed a plan to create public libraries in the governorates of Jordan to be run under the direct supervision of the ministry, said the minister who added that the move is aimed at promoting the cultural movement in Jordan.

JLA President Yousef Qandeel voiced the association's appreciation of the ministry's support for its

endeavours

The participants are to review working papers dealing with school libraries and their role in encouraging reading among students, the general situation at Jordan's public libraries, the university libraries and their development and the importance of the right information to decision makers and researchers.

Several ministry officials were present at the opening session held at the Engineering Faculty of the University of Jordan.

Syrian team to arrive for trade talks

DAMASCUS (Petra) — A Syrian economic delegation led by the president of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce, Rafeh Shallah, is expected to arrive in Amman on Sept. 20 on a several-day visit for talks with Jordanian economists and businessmen on bilateral cooperation in trade and economic fields.

Dr. Shallah said in a state-

ment Saturday that the visit aims at increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Syria and exploring the prospects of launching joint ventures.

He said the delegation will attend the Arab Investments and Food Security conference due to be held in Amman later this month and as well as the exhibition to be held on the sidelines.



A bedouin woman takes her class in literacy. Jordan has been working to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000 (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM
"Seven Days in May" at the American Centre on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

FILM
"Henry Moore," at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT
Concert by Faculty X Bamd (performing Jazz, Latin, and Fusion) at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery.

Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodeib at the Blue House.

Display of painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

"Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet.

Open Air Sculpture workshop.

Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

EXHIBITIONS
Abstract art by Iraqi artist Faris 'Ashour at the

Royal Cultural Centre.
Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, main lobby of Jordan InterContinental Hotel, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. except Fridays).

Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jahal Amman.

Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Powell calls for 3rd U.S. party

NEW YORK (R) — General Colin Powell, who has America guessing if, when and how he will run for president, says the time may be right to create a third major political party, according to an excerpt from his autobiography. To be published Sunday in Time magazine.

But the retired general, in the 8,000-word excerpt from My American Journey to be published Sunday in Time magazine, refuses to say whether he would lead such a movement or whether he will run for president either as an independent or as a Republican. He added that to be a successful politician requires "a calling I do not yet hear."

Declaring that he was troubled by the extreme right which thinks that "God has a legislative agenda" and by

"patronising liberals" who ignore what is good for society, the first black to become the nation's top soldier makes the case for creating a new political party — one that would represent the centre.

"I distrust rigid ideology from any direction and I am discovering that many Americans feel just as I do. The time may be at hand for a third major party to emerge to represent this sensible centre of the American political spectrum," said Gen. Powell, who helped lead the Gulf War against Iraq.

He said he would only enter the presidential race "because I believed I could do a better job than the other candidates of solving the nation's problems...I would certainly not run simply

because I saw myself as the 'great black hope,' providing a role model for African-Americans or a symbol to whites of racism overcome."

In a separate interview with Time accompanying the excerpts, the 58-year-old career soldier said he will not decide whether to run until his book tour ends in late October. He also does not rule out vying for the Republican nomination, saying the party is more moderate than one would expect "just from listening to the ordinary rhetoric."

"The book tour is sort of a coming-out party for me. For the last two years, I've done no interviews, no television and people are wondering what...Colin Powell stands for. Well, they are about to find out as I deal with the various issues out

there and I become a public figure again," he said.

He said if he decided to run as a Republican he would have to announce his decision in November to qualify for primaries and would have more time if he ran as an independent.

Gen. Powell added: "I can't just keep this up forever. I've got to get on with it...I am certainly more moderate in my views than most of the more active Republicans and the activist Republican groups that are out there right now fighting for the heart and soul of the Republican Party."

In his book, Gen. Powell describes himself as a "fiscal conservative with a social conscience. Neither of the major parties, however, fits me comfortably in its present state."

India renews talks with kidnappers

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian officials said Saturday they had resumed talks with Kashmir guerrillas holding four Westerners hostage and acknowledged they were discussing the militants' demands as a new deadline neared.

"The authorities were able to establish contact last evening through intermediaries," K.B. Jandial, spokesman for the government of Jammu and Kashmir state, told reporters. "The hostages were reported to be safe."

He added: "We are hopeful of pursuing the contact. There is likelihood that there will be contact again this evening, tomorrow morning and tomorrow evening. We

have no plans for a military operation."

Al-Faraz guerrillas had set Saturday evening as a new deadline, threatening to kill the captive tourists unless India released an undisclosed number of jailed militants.

When the captors issued the fourth deadline in the two-month ordeal Friday, no time was set for carrying out their death threat.

Asked if India would agree to Al-Faraz's demands, Mr. Jandial said: "Sorry, I can't comment about it. This is a subject matter of the talks."

India has refused to free three Pakistanis wanted by the captors, but said some Kashmiri separatists could be released.

American Donald Hitchings, German Dirk Hasert and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were kidnapped by the previously unknown Al-Faraz group in early July while trekking in the Himalayan Mountains.

Last month the group beheaded a fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, and threatened to murder the others unless India released 15 jailed militants.

A Western expert who asked not to be identified said the outlook for the hostages had improved, but Mr. Jandial said the government was still concerned over the new deadline as it followed a four-day gap in communication.

Dole, Gramm vie for votes of Christian Coalition

WASHINGTON (R) — Leading candidates for the 1996 Republican U.S. Presidential nomination vied Friday for the support of the powerful Christian Coalition with strong right-wing appeals and fierce anti-abortion rhetoric.

Texas Senator Phil Gramm was the first of seven Republican presidential aspirants to address the annual convention of the group which claims 1.7 million members and is a crucial force in Republican politics.

Sen. Gramm also laid a trap for Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, the leading candidate for the Republican nomination next year who followed Sen. Gramm to the lectern a few hours later.

Sen. Gramm challenged Sen. Dole to sign a pledge not to tinker with a section of the Republican Party platform stating a determination to repeal the legal right to an abortion. Some Republican moderates would like to get rid of the anti-abortion clause in the platform.

"I believe that all human beings were made in the image of God and if there is a divine spark in every human life I will fight for that life," Sen. Gramm said.

When Sen. Dole appeared, he was greeted by cries from the audience of "sign the pledge, sign the pledge," he responded: "Don't look at pledges, look at the record, folks."

Sen. Dole vowed to "protect the sanctity of all human life" but made his life as a war hero and veteran a public servant the centerpiece of his speech. It's not the speeches we make. It's the record," he said.

Republican presidential candidates are frantically courting the votes of Evangelical Christian voters. But coalition executive director Ralph Reed said the organization would not be bought by any single candidate or party.

"The question, as we head for 1996, is not who we endorse. The question is who will endorse our agenda," Mr. Reed told the overflow audience that packed a huge Washington ballroom.

He said delegates had not come to Washington to be courted or to anoint a candidate. "We seek to do more than just elect a president. We seek to heal a nation," he said.

The coalition's agenda includes restricting and eventually banning abortion, restoring the right to pray in schools, putting religious schools on an equal financial footing and restoring what supporters call "traditional family values."

Abortion rights and groups advocating rights for homosexuals issued statements Friday blasting the coalition for what they said was an attempt to impose their morality on other people via politics.



Residents attempt to salvage an engine following flashfloods caused by torrents of water and mud near the Allah River. At least 46 people have died after the crater lake in Parker volcano collapsed due to heavy rains in the Philippines (AFP photo)

Filipino volcanic flood toll hits 46

T'BOI, Philippines (R) — Raging floods which roared out from a volcanic landslide in the southern Philippines have killed 46 people and scores more are feared buried under an avalanche of mud, officials said Saturday.

Dad Tuan, mayor of T'boli village near Mount Parker, told reporters the number of dead had risen overnight to 46 from 41 after rescue teams scouring the village recovered the remains of five others swamped by the floods.

A landslide in Mount Parker's crater Wednesday night triggered the massive floods which swept down the mountain on the southern edge of Mindanao Island.

Survivors who scrambled to safety ahead of a wall of water up to six metres high said Friday the floods crushed villagers in their houses and buried them

under several feet of mud.

The floods caused more than 400 million pesos (\$15.5 million) in damage to rice, corn and coconut farms in the area, Hilario De Pedro, the governor of South Cotabato province, told reporters in a briefing late Friday.

Mr. Tuan said many of the more than 500 people originally reported missing have been accounted for, but several dozen others may never be found under the mud.

The hamlet of New Dungsang, the worst-hit in T'boli, was flattened. More than half the wood and palm-thatch homes in the community of more than 5,000 people were smashed by boulders and lumber brought on by rampaging floods Wednesday night.

Volcanologists said they were still trying to establish the cause of the landslide into Lake Maughan, which

lies at a height of 1,000 metres in Parker's two-kilometre wide crater. Parker is 1,800 metres high.

Scientists with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Parker could be extremely dangerous if it erupts.

They said Parker's structure resembles that of Pinatubo volcano, north of Manila, which exploded in 1991 and killed nearly 1,000 people in one of the century's biggest volcanic eruptions. Parker last erupted in 1640, the scientists said.

Pinatubo is still wreaking havoc in several provinces in the northern Philippines. Whenever there is heavy rain, it washes down tonnes of volcanic debris in the form of devastating mudflows called lahar which have buried entire villages in the area.

Jackson, sister Janet win MTV award

NEW YORK (AP) — Host Dennis Miller was bleeped twice during his monologue, and Madonna used the F-word. Michael Jackson sang, danced and grabbed his crotch. Tom Petty took a pot shot at his hosts. It was a typical night at the 12th annual MTV video music awards, where bizarre and raunchy antics have become a staple of the show. Petty captured the first award — best male video — for his "You Don't Know How It Feels" clip. In his acceptance speech, he noted that MTV had scrambled his lyric. "Let's roll another joint." "I want to thank MTV, even though there was one word I never could understand," Petty said. He was followed by British popstar Seal, whose Kiss From A Rose won best video from a film. Jackson and sister Janet, nominated for 11 awards, won the best dance video for their black and white sci-fi "Scream" from Michael's HIStory record. The pair had the most nominations of any artist. Jackson kicked off the show with a 15-minute greatest hits medley that ran from Billie Jean through the current You Are Not Alone. He changed costumes three times, sharing the stage at times with a children's choir, a troupe of dancing mobsters, and guitarist Slash.

Observation post to track China's lake monster

BEIJING (AFP) — The mystery of China's "Lake Tianchi monster" may soon be solved following construction of an observation post to try to identify the creature. The post, installed jointly by the Lake Monster Research Society and a local television station, will be manned by experienced photographers, said the China Daily. The monster of Lake Tianchi in the Changbai Mountains, Jilin province, northeast China, has been seen dozens of times by local people and tourists since the end of the 19th century. But like the legendary Loch Ness beast in Scotland no-one has been able to firmly identify it. The most recent sighting was by Beijing and Taiwanese tourists who reported seeing its head above water on July 14. Last year it was spotted three times. Witnesses variously described it looking like a dinosaur, a giant buffalo or a huge iron pot. The Lake Monster Research Society has offered 10,000 yuan (\$1,500) to anyone who succeeds in photographing the monster.

Anti-abortion activist gets 20 years in jail

PORTLAND, Oregon (AFP) — An anti-abortion activist convicted of setting fire to eight clinics where abortions were practiced was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Rachelle "Shelley" Shannon did not appear for her sentencing; she is currently in jail for an August 1993 shooting of a doctor who performed abortions in Wichita, Kansas. The physician was wounded. Ms. Shannon will serve the 20-year term once she completes her first sentence.

Philippines lifts ban on nude Streep in Bridges

MANILA (AFP) — A committee headed by a senior aide to President Fidel Ramos has overturned a Philippine censor's ban on The Bridges of Madison County which hinged on a brief scene of a nude Meryl Streep. The Oversight Committee, headed by Assistant Executive Secretary Renato Corona, ruled that distributor Warner Brothers Inc. could let adults over 18 see the five-second scene of a nude Streep looking at herself in a mirror. It gave no explanation for its ruling, which followed the appointment of a new head of the National Film Censorship Board.

U.S. first lady visits centre for homeless children in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP) — American first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a centre for homeless children where, in a poignant moment, a group of cheery faced youngsters sang, When You're Happy And You Know It. Clap Your Hands.

The few dozen well-scrubbed youths who are cared for at the Centre for Street Children are, indeed, the lucky ones. In Mongolia's two main urban centres, there are an estimated 4,000 homeless kids.

"I remember singing that," Mrs. Clinton, wife of U.S. President Clinton, told the children, but never as well as you just did.

The first lady visited the centre as a good will ambassador, concluding a six-day trip that took her to an international Women's Conference in Beijing and then to this sparsely populated nation squeezed between China and Russia.

Her primary mission here

was to offer encouragement to democratic and economic reforms Mongolia has adopted since breaking away from the Soviet Union in 1990. With the loss of Moscow's support, Mongolia has suffered severe economic problems but has not strayed from the path of democracy.

Mrs. Clinton brought \$3.5 million in energy assistance to help keep Ulan Bator's aging heating plant running during the frigid winter. She also announced \$1 million in medical aid for children.

Overall, the trip showcased Mrs. Clinton as a crusader for women and children, a role the White House believes more Americans prefer for her than as a major policy player. The focus on the family and traditional values also is a major theme of President Clinton's re-election campaign.

At the homeless centre, Mrs. Clinton asked a nurse about the biggest health needs of the children. She

was told that many of them have skin diseases from parasites and a lack of bathing. They also suffer from pneumonia and other respiratory problems. Kidney disease is common.

Officials told Mrs. Clinton that Mongolia does not have the expertise or resources to adequately deal with homeless children. The centre tries to reconnect kids with their parents and to give them vocational skills.

"You should know this is a problem not only in Mongolia but throughout the world... Including in my own country," Mrs. Clinton said.

She took note of recent comments here by the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, and a revered figure in Mongolia. He raised the problem of homeless children and reminded Mongol businessmen, busy making money, that everyone has a responsibility to take care of the nation's children.

China tells U.S. to act to improve ties

BEIJING (R) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin has told former U.S. President George Bush that Washington must take action to improve troubled Sino-U.S. relations, saying words are not enough, the People's Daily reported Saturday.

"We have noticed that recently the United States restated that the U.S. government will continue to follow the 'one China' policy... And oppose Taiwan independence and oppose Taiwan entering the United Nations," it quoted Mr. Jiang as saying in a meeting late Friday with Mr. Bush, a former ambassador to China.

"China pays great attention to these statements by the U.S. side but only spoken assurances are not enough," he said.

After Washington enraged Beijing by allowing a landmark private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of rival Taiwan to the United States last June, relations between the two countries have plunged to their lowest point since they were established 16 years ago.

"We ask the U.S. government to adopt concrete and effective measures to elimi-

nate the serious consequences arising from Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States and avoid future big ups and downs in Sino-U.S. relations," Jiang said.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 and does not believe it has the right to independent foreign relations.

Beijing's Communist rulers and Taiwan's Nationalist government both say they want reunification, but on very different terms.

Beijing has been enraged by what it sees as Taiwan's attempt to try to emerge from its international diplomatic isolation.

Beijing has called repeatedly on Washington to take what it calls concrete steps to improve ties, but has not said specified outright what it wants the United States to do.

However, diplomats have said China wants an open commitment from Washington that it will not allow future visits by Taiwan officials, even in a private capacity. The United States is unlikely to give such a commitment, they say.

U.S. Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff visited

China on a fence-mending trip last month and while the two sides failed to bridge differences over the Taiwan issue, they did agree to prepare for possible meetings of their two presidents.

A meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, agreed during Mr. Tarnoff's visit and due to take place at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in late September, would "prove useful," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman has said.

However, China must have been disappointed by the visit this week by U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to address the United Nations fourth World Women's Conference that Beijing thought would help to guarantee the success of the first major international gathering held in China, diplomats said.

She attacked host China, telling a plenary session of the conference that Beijing's restrictions on women at a parallel grassroots Forum were "indefensible" and criticising countries that inhibit free assembly.

Disarm, UUP head tells Sinn Fein

BELFAST (R) — Newly elected...Protestant...Leader David Trimble...warned Britain and Ireland Saturday that a token surrender of arms by IRA guerrillas would not be enough to make him join all-party Northern Ireland peace talks.

"It's (disarming) not to be done simply as a gesture," Mr. Trimble told his first news conference after being elected leader of Northern Ireland's Ulster Unionist Party (UUP).

He said that the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, would have to prove a total commitment to peace by getting the Irish Republican Army to give up its arms, but warned that even that might not be enough to satisfy him.

"Handing up some weapons may not be enough because it may not establish a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods," the 50-year-old law lecturer said after an upset win in Friday night's UUP leadership election.

"All the words all the actions of Sinn Fein, IRA at the moment show they are not committed to peaceful methods."

Mr. Trimble, whose party stands against any attempts to end the province's British status, sent a message to the Irish and British governments that he would be taking a tough line on the issue

of arms, which has deadlocked their peace process. Britain says that the IRA, which fought British rule for 25 years until declaring a ceasefire last year, must make a commitment and a start to "arms decommissioning" to win a seat for Sinn Fein at all-party peace talks.

But it has sent signals that a commitment to disarm and a token surrender of some of its stocks of Semtex plastic explosive and automatic weapons might be enough to earn the invitation to all-party talks which Sinn Fein clamours for.

"Any instalment or advance towards that goal (total disarmament) would be welcome and we seek to encourage it," Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said in a keynote speech in Britain which was overshadowed by the UUP leadership poll.

But Mr. Trimble made plain that he was against any "cosmetic gesture" in a headline outline of his views that will complicate Britain and Ireland's quest for a lasting settlement.

The UUP is the mainstream voice of the province's pro-British 60 per cent Protestant majority and holds nine seats in the British House of Commons, the same figure as embattled Prime Minister John Major's fragile majority. His win is likely to be viewed as a setback for

peace efforts in Dublin and in London, as well as by Sinn Fein, which seeks the reunification of Northern Ireland with the predominantly Catholic Irish republic.

Meanwhile in Washington, U.S. Vice President Al Gore met a British minister on Northern Ireland at the White House Friday and stressed the importance of getting the deadlocked Northern Ireland peace process moving again, the minister said.

Junior Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram said Mr. Gore attended part of an hour-long meeting between himself and U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake.

Mr. Gore "made it clear that they (the Americans) were very keen to see the process proceed," Mr. Ancram told reporters.

The White House said later Mr. Gore and Mr. Ancram expressed hope that there would be movement soon, especially in light of President Bill Clinton's upcoming trip to Ireland.

"They also reiterated our view that paramilitaries on both sides should address the need to discuss seriously the 'decommissioning of weapons,' the White House said in a written statement.

Mr. Clinton has scheduled a visit to London, Belfast and Dublin at the end of November.

Unhappy Simpson jury sent back to hotel for another long weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's defence lawyers wanted to rest, deciding his testimony was unnecessary to answer a state case in "shambles." The prosecution would not let them.

Keeping jurors waiting in a hotel they want desperately to leave, prosecutors derailed the defence's last day in Simpson's murder trial. They promised to file an emergency appeal Friday of a ruling that jurors would be told that detective Mark Fuhrman would be "unavailable" to testify.

When the judge summoned jurors into the courtroom Thursday after they

spent the day in a holding room, he broke the news that they probably wouldn't be back until Monday. Some clenched their jaws. Some frowned or were grim-faced.

Friday's agenda called for a no-frills procedural hearing.

The last time the 12 jurors and two alternates heard testimony was just after lunch Wednesday. After eight months of being sequestered, they have repeatedly sent notes to Judge Lance Ito to tell him they aren't - to use Judge Ito's words - "happy campers."

While the jurors sat and stewed, lawyers dedicated

large portions of the day to standing and stewing. And the judge was stewing back. Attorneys retired to Judge Ito's chambers for the second day in a row to exchange heated words.

Meanwhile, a whole host of developments unfolded. The most significant was the defence's decision not to call Simpson to the stand.

The defence believes Simpson's testimony is not needed given the damage to the prosecution's case from Mr. Fuhrman's taped comments about racism and police misconduct.

YORK (AP) — Hong Kong's sister city, London, was the first to be named during the 1995 MTV award ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The award was presented to the sister city of London, Hong Kong. The ceremony was held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The award was presented to the sister city of London, Hong Kong.

Observation post
to track China's
lake monster

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese government has set up an observation post to track China's lake monster. The observation post is located on the shore of Lake Tai. The Chinese government has set up an observation post to track China's lake monster. The observation post is located on the shore of Lake Tai.

A 10-year-old girl
dies in jail

BEIJING (AP) — A 10-year-old girl died in jail. The girl was found dead in her cell. The cause of death is still under investigation. The girl was found dead in her cell. The cause of death is still under investigation.

San Juan, Puerto Rico
is hit by hurricane

San Juan, Puerto Rico is hit by hurricane. The hurricane caused significant damage to the city. The hurricane caused significant damage to the city.

Biggest women's gathering closes — with one last security flap

HUAIROU, China (AP) — The world's biggest women's gathering closed with a final show of traditional Chinese pageantry — marred by one final spat over security.

Thousands of women stood in persistent drizzle to watch Chinese dancers, drummers and lion dancers close the 10-day gathering.

But an Australian dance-and-storytelling troupe was briefly blocked by Chinese plainclothes security men from getting onstage to perform a fire dance.

The Chinese objected because the Melbourne-based women's troupe is affiliated with Amnesty International and includes in its stories an account of a Tibetan nun jailed for opposing Chinese rule of the Himalayan region.

After intervention by the conference's chief organizer, Thailand's Supatra Masdit, the Chinese allowed the Australians to go on — provided they only danced, without telling any stories.

Ms. Supatra later told the AP the Chinese had already agreed to let them perform without lyrics, and blamed lower-level officials for the interference.

Teenage girls carrying a banner with innocuous slogans also were barred from the stage, witnesses said.

The backstage incident was not apparent to most of the crowd thronging the paved schoolyard that served as the main plaza of the gathering site.

Since the start of the non-governmental group's gathering 10 days ago, participants have complained repeatedly about heavy-handed policing at their meeting site, 50 kilometres outside Beijing.

The problems did not go unremarked in the closing ceremony. "We all leave here with many lessons to reflect on,"

organiser Supatra said. "Reports of human rights problems... have marred the accomplishments of this gathering."

There was applause, though, when she thanked the Chinese government and the people of China — and the nation swelled when she mentioned the Chinese volunteers who helped to run the conference, and the people of Huairou.

After the squalor and clangor of Chinese traditional music, the ceremony turned poignant, with a haunting soprano rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

On the stage, a foreign and a Chinese woman fell into each other's arms weeping. Women hugged, photographed each other, waved and occasionally unfurled a national flag.

China has accused Western media of exaggerating the problems participants encountered at Huairou, ranging from muddy fields and half-built structures to lack of transportation to the capital.

In her farewell speech to "sisters and friends," the

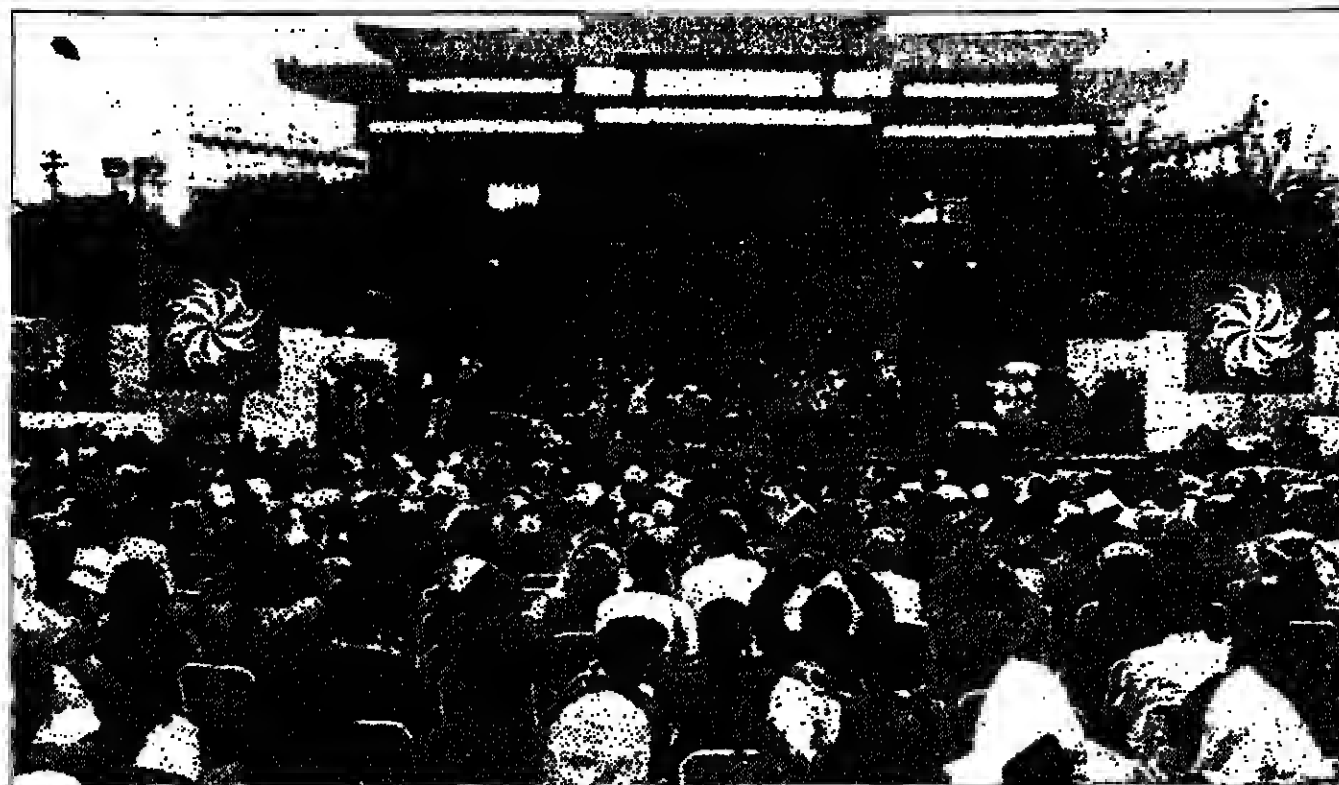
head of the Chinese organising committee, Huang Qizao, made a pointed reference to the conference slogan, "look at the world through women's eyes."

"Look at China... through your own eyes," she said. At a news conference in Beijing, some participants blasted what they called "unacceptable intrusions and interferences" by Chinese authorities.

Sunila Abeyasekera of Sri Lanka said a group would collect complaints about harassment and surveillance until the end of the official part of the gathering, the U.N.-sponsored fourth World Conference on Women, on Sept. 15.

Many of the women at Huairou are moving to Beijing to lobby the official gathering.

The Chinese president of the U.N. Forum, Chen Muhua, complained of "a small number of countries that have, in contradiction of the facts, criticised certain countries," and said it did not bode well for the conference.



Delegates to the World Women's NGO Forum watch the closing ceremony on the outdoor stage at the venue site in Huairou, China (AFP photo)

Russia to annul military treaty with N. Korea

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has announced it will scrap a treaty with North Korea hindering Moscow to military intervention in case the hard-line Communist state comes under attack.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nikita Matkovsky called the 1961 agreement outdated and said that Russia is offering North

Korea a new "friendship treaty" instead.

Moscow's decision to annul the treaty is expected to further strain relations with North Korea, but improve ties with capitalist South Korea.

South Korea immediately hailed Russia's decision. "We welcome the liquidation of the military alliance

... as a remnant of the cold war," Suh Dae-Won, spokesman for the South Korean Foreign Ministry, said Thursday.

The treaty requires Moscow to provide military assistance to Pyongyang in the event of war.

It has been renewed automatically every five years but might be revised or can-

celed by one side one year before the regular expiration date.

Mr. Matkovsky said the treaty "has become outdated and does not correspond to new realities in Russia, in Russian-Korean relations and in North East Asia."

The Soviet Union supported Pyongyang in the 1950-53 Korean War.

Nepal rulers to face no-confidence vote Sunday

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's shaky Communist rulers will face a no-confidence vote Sunday after Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikary replies to an opposition motion from his hospital bed, officials said Saturday.

Mr. Adhikary, whose minority government has little chance of survival, will reply on television or video tape to the no-confidence motion tabled Thursday, parliament officials said.

The vote had earlier been scheduled for Saturday. The prime minister won another day to present his case after a bitter fight between lawmakers of his United Marxist-Leninist (UML) party, who sought extra time by citing Mr. Adhikary's health problems.

The prime minister suffered a collar-bone fracture on Aug. 14 in a helicopter accident.

house of parliament, Ram Chandra Poudel, had called Friday for a Saturday sitting to vote on Mr. Adhikary's nine-month-old minority government.

"The house will meet tomorrow for a reply from the prime minister on the motion and to vote on it," Mr. Poudel told parliament after a session that lasted late into the night and before Mr. Adhikary won the day's reprieve.

The 75-year-old Adhikary's efforts to hold fresh elections in November failed after the Supreme Court last month struck down an order from King Birendra which approved Mr. Adhikary's recommendation of the House of Representatives be dissolved.

He made the recommendation in June to pre-empt a proposed no-confidence motion by the two leading opposition parties, the centrist Nepali Congress and the

right-wing Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP).

Thursday's no-confidence motion was moved by opposition parties who want to form an alternative government without dissolving parliament. They said last June the poor Himalayan nation could not afford another election.

UML lawmakers condemned the speaker's move as a conspiracy against Mr. Adhikary, who had asked for six days' time to face parliament. UML deputies cried "fraud" and rushed towards Mr. Poudel's chair but were held back by security staff.

Doctors attending Mr. Adhikary said he needed rest for three more weeks.

Opposition parties, who said they were strong enough to topple Mr. Adhikary, doubted if he would make it to parliament.

Analysts say the government, which has 89 seats in the 205-seat assembly, is

sure to be defeated on the motion, proposed by the two major opposition parties which have 106 members between them. The house now has 202 sitting members.

Communist lawmakers held up parliament with noisy protests Thursday and delayed putting forward the no-confidence motion by about five hours.

They formed a human wall in front of the speaker's chair and upturned the podium where Sher Bahadur Deuba, the leader of the opposition, was presenting the motion.

The Communists said parliament rules stipulate that the prime minister should be present to hear a no-confidence motion. But opposition lawmakers maintained business must not be interrupted and a cabinet minister could be named to stand in for the prime minister.

Mexican talks march on after breakthrough

SAN ANDRES LARRAINZAR, Mexico (R) — Peace talks between the government and Maya Indian rebels in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas broke through a five-month deadlock and took a big step forward Friday.

The two sides agreed to 42 of a proposed 49 points on a broad agenda for the peace process and government officials said they were close to fixing a date for detailed negotiations on indigenous rights, democratic and judicial reforms and steps to boost Chiapas' long-neglected Indian communities.

Rebel leader Cmdante David told reporters "significant advances" were made during Friday's marathon session and that the talks would continue for a fifth straight day Saturday.

A new air of optimism swirled around this poor highlands town after five months of frustration and often bitter exchanges

between guerrilla chiefs of the Zapatista National Liberation Army and Interior Ministry negotiators.

The breakthrough was made after the Zapatistas Thursday accepted in principle an offer to take part in separate, all-party talks on national democratic reforms.

Although details of the proposal have yet to be worked out, it keeps alive the rebels' declared goal of winning reforms on a national level and is consistent with the government's position that it would not negotiate such reforms with the Zapatistas alone.

Under the new scenario, peace talks here will focus on addressing the root causes of the 20-month-old rebellion while the Zapatistas will play a part in the parallel efforts to clean up Mexico's electoral system and cut the power of the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.



A demonstrator throws a Molotov cocktail at police at Faan, near the Papeete Airport during violent clashes following the resumption of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific (AFP photo)

Amid looting and destruction, Caribbean islanders rebuild

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Tourists settled back into their Caribbean vacations Friday as hurricane Luis churned off to sea, but islanders worked to ward off looters and rebuild their shattered lives.

Luis slammed into several tiny islands of the northeastern Caribbean Tuesday, killing at least 15 people and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage.

But the storm steered away from the region's largest islands — Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Cuba — and appeared by Friday nearly certain to avoid the United States as it moved into the open Atlantic.

At 5:00 p.m. EDT (2000 GMT), tropical storm warn-

ings were in effect for Bermuda, the British colony that lies hundreds of kilometres east of the United States in the central Atlantic, although forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said they did not expect Luis to strike there.

Luis's centre was about 725 kilometres southwest of Bermuda and moving north-northwest near 14 mph (22 kph). Forecasters said they expected the storm to turn toward the north.

That path would take it over cooler water, weakening it and reducing its threat to land. The storm still carried sustained winds near 120 mph (195 kph), making it a strong Category III hurricane.

VILLA for RENT

Two-storey deluxe villa with separate entrances, garages and planted gardens for each upper & lower residences.

Location	200 m off the road to American Embassy. Opposite A. Sharaf school
Upper Residence	Reception & Dining (90m ²) + Living + Master Bedroom + 2 Bedrooms + Furnished Kitchen in Oakwood + Guest WC. maidroom and store
Lower Residence	Reception & Dining + 2 Bedrooms + Furnished Kitchen in Oakwood + Guest WC and store
Services & Special Features	Central Heating + Split A/C + 30m ³ Water Reservoir + Intercom + Music system + Fire-Place + Burglar Alarm system.

Contact Owner @ Tel. 826792
[11-1 pm + 4-6 pm]

A LARGE CHEMICAL COMPANY ESTABLISHED IN JORDAN REQUIRES CANDIDATES MEETING THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO FILL UP VARIOUS POSITIONS DURING THE COURSE OF 1996. ATTRACTIVE SALARY PACKAGE WILL BE OFFERED TO SUITABLE CANDIDATES.

GENERAL	
-	ONLY JORDANIAN NATIONALS NEED APPLY.
-	POSITIONS ARE OPEN FOR MALE CANDIDATES ONLY.
-	UPPER AGE LIMIT 35 YEARS.
-	FOR CATEGORIES A TO D FLUENCY IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES IS A MUST.
-	KNOWLEDGE OF PC OPERATIONS WILL BE AN ADDED QUALIFICATION.
CATEGORY A ENGINEERS	
QUALIFICATION :	DEGREE IN ENGINEERING
POSITION :	PROJECT ENGINEERS : CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, INSTRUMENTS, SAFETY, QUALITY CONTROL.
EXPERIENCE :	3 TO 5 YEARS RELATED INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE WITH AT LEAST 1 TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS SECTION - IN - CHARGE.
CATEGORY B OFFICERS	
QUALIFICATION :	UNIVERSITY DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT DIPLOMA STUDIES.
POSITION :	OFFICER : ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL, ACCOUNTS, SECURITY, MATERIAL HANDLING, PURCHASE, STORES.
EXPERIENCE :	5 TO 7 YEARS RELATED INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE WITH AT LEAST 1 TO 2 YEARS AS SECTION IN CHARGE.
CATEGORY C SENIOR STAFF TECHNICAL	
QUALIFICATION :	UNIVERSITY DEGREE (SCIENCE) OR EQUIVALENT TECHNICAL DIPLOMA.
POSITION :	SUPERVISOR : CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, CIVIL, ELECTRICAL INSTRUMENT, SAFETY, QUALITY CONTROL, MATERIAL HANDLING.
EXPERIENCE :	5 TO 7 YEARS, RELATED EXPERIENCE.
CATEGORY D SENIOR STAFF NON-TECHNICAL	
QUALIFICATION :	UNIVERSITY DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT DIPLOMA.
POSITION :	SENIOR ASSISTANT : DOCUMENTATION, MATERIALS, PURCHASE, STORES, MATERIAL HANDLING, ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL, SECURITY, ACCOUNTS.
EXPERIENCE :	5 TO 7 YEARS RELATED EXPERIENCE.
CATEGORY E MID-LEVEL STAFF TECHNICAL	
QUALIFICATION :	TECHNICAL DIPLOMA AFTER SCHOOL FINAL.
POSITION :	TECHNICIAN : INSTRUMENT, ELECTRICAL, CIVIL, CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, INSPECTION, QUALITY CONTROL.
EXPERIENCE :	2 TO 4 YEARS RELATED EXPERIENCE.
CATEGORY F MID-LEVEL STAFF NON-TECHNICAL	
QUALIFICATION :	DIPLOMA AFTER SCHOOL FINAL.
POSITION :	PERSONAL ASSISTANT, ASSISTANT : STORES, MATERIALS, ACCOUNTS, ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL, TIME OFFICE, MATERIAL HANDLING.
EXPERIENCE :	2 TO 4 YEARS RELATED EXPERIENCE.
II	QUALIFICATION : DRIVERS LICENCE, (AS APPLICABLE)
POSITION :	FORK TRUCK OPERATOR, PAY LOAD OPERATOR, DRIVER - PASSENGER CAR, BUS, VAN, PICKUPS, DRIVER - FIRE TENDER
EXPERIENCE :	4 TO 6 YEARS RELATED EXPERIENCE.
CATEGORY G JUNIOR LEVEL STAFF	
QUALIFICATION :	SCHOOL FINAL.
POSITION :	JUNIOR ASSISTANT : WORKSHOP, UNSKILLED, WEIGH BRIDGE, MEDICAL, TELEPHONE OPERATOR, FIREMAN, HOUSE KEEPER, MESSENGER, OFFICE BOY.
EXPERIENCE :	1 TO 3 YEARS RELATED EXPERIENCE.

CANDIDATES FULFILLING THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS MAY PLEASE FORWARD THE APPLICATIONS CLEARLY INDICATING THE POST APPLIED FOR ALONG WITH PHOTOGRAPH AND C.V. IN ENGLISH TO P.O. BOX 926787, AMMAN 1116, NOT LATER THAN 30.9.95.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
 Published 1975
 جريدة عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 607161

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Torture breeds violence

A RECENT poll taken by the Israeli daily Yediot Ahranot made a shocking revelation about Israeli public opinion on the question of resorting to torture while interrogating Palestinians suspected of involvement in "terrorist" acts. More than 60 per cent of Israelis interviewed supported the proposition that Shin Beit, the Israeli state security agency, be given a "freer" hand in conducting such interrogations. It will be recalled that Shin Beit has the authority since 1987 to use "moderate physical coercion" against suspects, but this restricted resort to force is expected to be further relaxed in favour of a higher dose of mistreatment of detainees in the wake of the suicide bomb attacks that were launched against Israeli targets by members of Hamas or Islamic Jihad recently.

We see two major problems with the new Israeli policy on this score.

The first is Israel's treaty obligations under various international human rights instruments especially the Convention Against Torture. It is true that many countries face similar or identical state security problems as Israel and several of them have opted for the easy way out by resorting to torture to extricate confessions from suspects. But the Convention Against Torture was adopted precisely because there was an international consensus that torture and ill-treatment of detainees cannot be justified no matter what reasons lay behind it. Israel is a party to these international norms, and therefore any deviation from their legal obligations would naturally be a subject of close scrutiny and condemnation by the international community.

The second problem is that confessions under duress are seldom useful to preempt violent attacks or to punish culprits. It is a well-known fact that many people succumb to various degrees of pressure and talk, but not all their confessions turn out to be correct. That is why, on balance, the comity of nations had opted to outlaw investigation under duress and ruled that all information obtained through such a method should not and could not be used in a court of law to condemn a suspect.

Surely there are more ingenious and sane ways to deal with terrorism. For one thing, it would be much more effective to preempt violent acts by removing or neutralising the factors that contribute to them. Speedy resolution of the Palestinian problem by advancing the pace of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) could create the very conditions that would automatically make acts of terrorism less likely. Israeli negotiators are notoriously dragging their feet in their talks with the PNA, and yielding jurisdiction and authority to the Palestinians is taking much longer than it should be. The sooner the Palestinians are allowed their freedoms and granted their rights, the better the prospects will be for ending the cycle of violence in all of Palestine.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday focused attention on the danger inherent in the plastic bags which, according to official reports, caused the loss of JD 12 million worth of sheep that consumed them. Since the reports were published, a series of seminars have been convened to look into this matter and to find solutions to the problem, said columnist Nazih. According to the reports, plastic sheets are also causing great harm to humans as well as animals, the writer said and called for resolutions and recommendations adopted by these seminars to be translated into action on the ground. Noting that the seminars have defined the source of danger, passed resolutions and recommendations and appealed to the concerned authorities to take action, the writer said that nothing had been done so far to stem the danger which is costing the country a fortune.

A WRITER in Al Dastour voiced support for Hamas' idea of converting itself into a political party, abandoning the military option to secure an end to the occupation. Saleh Qallab called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to welcome such a development, to free all Hamas members from detention and allow the new party to exercise its right as one of the opposition groups in the ranks of the Palestinian people. Whether they call themselves Hamas or Muslim Brotherhood, — which is their mother movement — the new political entity should display flexibility regarding the events in the region and adapt to new situations and new realities so as to prove its vitality and dynamism.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

No justification for a joint Wadi Araba airport

IT SEEMS Jordan is about to upgrade and expand Aqaba airport into a regional facility that would serve both Aqaba and Israel's Eilat.

Aqaba airport's present size and capacity is more than sufficient to accommodate the present and future traffic needs to and from Aqaba. Therefore, no justification exists, from a Jordanian point of view, to expand the airport at the cost of \$200 million, as revealed by the director of the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority, in order to qualify as a regional airport and be renamed "Wadi Araba International Airport," to serve the southern part of Israel, as Eilat airport may be abandoned.

The feasibility study which is being financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will definitely conclude that the project is feasible and should be implemented. The motives are not technical, economical, or financial, but the decision will have a political dimension, simply because it is nice to have a single airport serving two countries that used to be enemies. The airport will be introduced as another symbol of peaceful cooperation and economic and social normalisation of relations between Israel and an Arab state.

From a strictly fiscal point of view, there is no justification to allocate a penny from the budget, which is already in big deficit, nor to borrow the funds from abroad and increase the heavy burden of debt. Jordan is already debt-ridden and overburdened with debt service for 20 years to come. For this project to deserve consideration, a commitment to provide a grant of \$200 million must be secured. Otherwise Jordan does not need to take this unnecessary extra cost which it can do without. As if it is not enough that peace failed to produce any dividends for the Jordanian people are we now being expected to shoulder peace liabilities?

It is not known how the new expanded airport will serve Israel. Would Israel foot the bill and pay the cost of expansion and extra construction and equipment, or will it be a mere user of the facility, paying rent for the building it will occupy and handling and landing fees for the services rendered to its aircraft. In the latter case, we should know how many years will be needed to recover the cost.

If the project really makes sense financially, why shouldn't the private sector be invited to implement it and operate it on commercial basis, after paying for the cost of

the present airport?

From a procedural viewpoint, Wadi Araba airport may be the first airport in the world to serve two independent states. Geneva airport, for instance, is clearly a Swiss airport built on French land on the basis of a long term lease. It is by no means a new experiment which has no precedent in the history of civil aviation.

It is being claimed that it is not safe to continue operating two airports which are very close to each other, but we wonder how it was possible to operate the two airports safely for many years, when the two sides were not coordinating and not even communicating with each other.

Too many projects are being in circulation. Too few of these are of tangible benefit to the Jordanian people. We are fond of accepting projects even at our own detriment. The important thing is to please and show readiness to move in any direction. Our own national interest does not bother us. We are a people of mission. Prophets are supposed to take sacrifices willingly, not benefits, even when they are crucified or stoned to death. Cost and benefit calculations are not fit for the "large," such as ourselves.

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

M. KAHIL



Israeli perspective: U.S.-Jordan friendship confounds Gulf coalition

By Pinhas Inbari

The writer is an Israeli analyst. His article is reprinted without editing from the Jerusalem Post of Sept. 6.

SYRIAN PRESIDENT

Hafez Assad arrived in Cairo this week, a day after dispatching his vice-president, Abdul Halim Khaddam, to Tehran.

Diplomatic sources cited the keen interest Syria and Egypt have in developments in Iraq after the defection of leading members of President Saddam Hussein's family last month. However, it is the growing importance of Jordan, not Iraq, that is the main concern of President Hosni Mubarak and Mr. Assad.

In Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency merely said Mr. Khaddam had brought a letter from Mr. Assad for President Hashemi Rafsanjani on "regional developments." As Syria is Iran's main Arab ally and keeps Tehran informed on its inter-Arab diplomacy, that visit was a prelude to the more important Assad-Mubarak meeting.

The Middle East never ceases to produce surprises. Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak are now supporting Saddam Hussein, while the U.S. is supporting Jordan. This is the reverse of the Gulf war alliances.

While much remains unknown about the circumstances surrounding the spectacular Aug. 8 defection to Jordan by Hussein Kamel Majid and Saddam Kamel Majid — along with Saddam's daughters and 15 army officers — the political consequences are somewhat clearer: Old inter-Arab tensions have

been revived in the wake of the Gulf crisis, due to economic rather than military-political factors.

Cairo was the key U.S. ally in the aftermath of the Kuwait invasion, helping Washington mobilise the Arab World against Saddam. Yet it feels that as soon as the war ended, the Americans turned their backs on Egypt in favour of promoting the interests of Jordan — one of Saddam's main allies.

Egypt was unpleasantly surprised to discover during preparations for the first regional economic conference in Casablanca last year, that Jordan's interests were in the foreground.

Surprise turned to alarm as Cairo found the U.S. was trying to convince Gulf states to channel money to Amman's banks. This began last summer, when U.S. undersecretary of state Pete Tarnoff visited the Gulf, and it continues today, gaining new impetus from the defections and king Hussein's call for change in Baghdad.

During a visit to Jordan two weeks ago, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa concentrated on the economic conference scheduled for October in Amman. The foreign minister made it clear that Jordan will not have Cairo's support if it intends to exploit the latest developments in Iraq to gain economic benefits at Egypt's expense.

Mr. Musa wanted to pour cold water on

Jordanian ambitions to become the Middle East financial centre — a role Cairo clearly sees as its own.

This has injected a note of caution into Jordanian diplomacy. It is not to be taken for granted that Amman is eager for a speedy rapprochement with the Gulf states.

Jordan is indeed keen to improve relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in particular, but it can do without the dramatic reconciliation the Americans would like to see. Egypt's chagrin over Washington's pro-Jordanian policy is well placed considering U.S. actions to boost Jordan as an economic centre. For example, the Americans forced the Jordanian banking system on the PLO — laying an infrastructure for future Jordanian economic activity in the territories.

If U.S. efforts are successful, the financial support for the Palestinians will be shifted to a path which runs from the Gulf to Amman to the territories.

So what were Washington's motives? The first priority was seen as encouraging King Hussein to finalise and then stabilise the peace treaty with Israel. The ultimate goal seems to be the construction of a three-sided economic framework including Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, but excluding Egypt.

In this case, Egyptians may well ask themselves why support the Middle East economic conference in Amman next month?

Economics aside, the Jordanian role in recent

developments in Iraq has political ramifications with its neighbours Syria and Saudi Arabia. Two weeks ago, King Hussein made reference to former Hashemite rule in Baghdad.

This elicited an angry, if indirect, response from the Saudis who reiterated their foreign policy stand of strongly opposing any dismantling of Iraq.

Syrians and Saudis harbour suspicions that if Iraq were dismembered, the country's Sunni Muslims might choose to balance the demographic advantages of the Kurds and Shiites by restoring an old "special relationship" with the Sunnis of Jordan.

On this point at least, Saudi Arabia may disagree with other Gulf emirates like Qatar and Oman, and support U.S. endeavours to open a new page with King Hussein for turning his back on his former ally in Baghdad.

The Syrian army is now reported to have deployed along the Iraqi border. This is no reason to assume that Syria is interested in dismembering Iraq. It is more logical to assume Damascus wants to forestall any possibility of the Sunni elite in a post-Saddam Iraq recreating that special relationship with Amman.

One thing is clear — any view that inter-Arab tensions would evaporate after the Gulf war has proved false. The old coalition of Cairo, Damascus and Riyadh remains firm against Amman. But this time, Washington is standing firm with Jordan — not with the former pro-American coalition.

LETTERS

Forum promotes Jerusalem cause

To the Editor:

THIS IS a first letter, hopefully to be followed by many more, from (Muntada Bayt Al-Maqdis) the Jerusalem Forum in Amman whose membership represents a broad spectrum of concerned along Jerusalemite-Christian and Muslim alike, and their many friends and affiliates in Amman, Jerusalem and throughout the region.

A Christian-Muslim committee has been formed within the Jerusalem Forum and it can rightfully claim ancestry, from its namesake, the illustrious Christian-Muslim Committee, which represented the Palestinian Arab national cause before the Versailles peace conference in 1919 and in a number of subsequent years.

This committee does not purport to represent, nor wish to usurp, any existing legitimate Palestinian institutions, organs or authorities — any more than does its parent, the Jerusalem Forum itself.

To the contrary, it seeks to augment any and all efforts designed to garner support for the sacred cause of preserving the religious and the historical status of Jerusalem as a city that belongs to the adherents of all three monotheistic faiths. Such status has been and continues to be undermined by continual and cataclysmic erosion of its demographic, geographic, cultural and religious landscape over the past three decades, since Israeli forces occupied East Jerusalem and the walled city in 1967.

One of the foremost victims of that occupation has been the very existence and well-being of Jerusalem's ageing and hitherto numerous and prosperous Arab Christian Palestinian community, which at present has dwindled to a mere few thousand. This ancient community has been the anchor and the mainstay of Christianity in Jerusalem and the Holy Land throughout the ages. Their ancestors built, embellished and kept alive such monumental and sacred sites as the Holy Sepulchre, Gethsemane Church, the Church of St. Mary and numerous other churches, holy sites and monasteries throughout the Holy Land which are in danger of closure and confiscation by the Israeli occupation.

And to the profound dismay of the Christian Palestinian Arab community, which has been marginalised and made to feel irrelevant by the world community parts of the Christian world tend to view resurrection and Christian redemption ever increasingly as contingent upon Jewish dominance over Jerusalem and the Holy Land to the exclusion, indeed, the attrition and eventual eradication of its indigenous people, Christian and Muslim alike.

The Israeli people have their own unique agenda for the Holy Land from their own parochial, historical and ideological perspective of which we are fully and chillingly aware. It is in sharp contrast to the ecumenical and universalistic messages of Islam and Christianity which are addressed to humankind in its entirety.

Far from wishing to delve into theological argumentation, out of respect for every religion's articles of faith and message, we firmly believe that beliefs and freedoms must stop at the periphery of other people's faiths and freedoms. That is the essence of peaceful coexistence, of live and let live, of freedom versus monolithic tyranny.

The fate of Jerusalem is scheduled to be negotiated and resolved towards the end of 1996, or early 1997, in the final phase of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks which are currently underway. The Israeli government and wide sections of the Israeli people in Jerusalem are already engaged in an organised campaign of harassment against the peace-loving Palestinian citizens of Jerusalem, Christian and Muslim alike. The aim seems to be to subvert by violent and unlawful means the outcome of the forthcoming talks on the status of Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Forum, therefore, finds it important and timely to raise its voice over Jerusalem by communicating to church leaders and other concerned bodies its profound concern over what is happening in Jerusalem at present. Special attention will be focused on the Christian Arab dimension of the cause and, to this end, the following avenues shall be pursued:

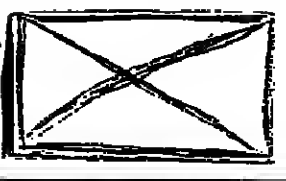
- To activate our Arab community to raise the level of awareness of the world on the urgent issues related to the status and people of Jerusalem both Christians and Muslims through letter writing campaigns to various Western personalities both religious and lay
- Twinning Arab churches with U.S. and other Western churches to develop channels of understanding
- Where possible, contacting the media and particularly religious and other publications with a view to stimulate coverage of the Jerusalem issue in its many facets, and generally improving Western media awareness of Arab Christians and their national identities and rights within the overall Palestinian national rights and existence
- Promotion of media coverage of the plight of Arab Christians and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem

The programme and its goals must evidently be a long-term effort. The letters we propose to send are a first step in a thousand mile journey. But we think it is worth it.

Dr. Musa Hussein, Zarka

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features



Security depends on social, economic as well as military factors -- Regent

(Continued from page 1)

"A better definition would include human resources, natural resources including land, and economic and military factors."

"Security can certainly be seen as covering a broad matrix of inter-connected issues such as food, water, energy, technology, finance, transport and communications," said the Regent. It also includes questions of domestic infrastructure as well as questions of foreign policy, employment, housing and services for people.

"A country that is providing for the needs of its people is unlikely to jeopardise its own security and that of its neighbours," the Regent pointed out.

Jordan and Israel did take into consideration these aspects while discussing security and economic cooperation as part of their peace treaty, he said. Both realised that security cannot be confined to Jordan and Israel in a region that is beset with decades of conflict and hostility, "relics of the cold war era," he said.

As such, said the Regent, Israel and Jordan agreed to several regional concepts, and one of them is a "conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East, culminating in a regional zone of security and stability."

The Palestinian territories, Israel and Jordan could be the nucleus of such a regional concept, and "we may begin with this heartland and work outwards, expanding the circle of peace." At the same time, the Middle East could not be confined to such a core, and Iraq, Iran and Turkey are essential components of the region and "should not be kept out of our strategic plans," he said.

Noting the American policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran, the Regent implicitly said that these two countries may not fit in the present U.S. approach to the region in terms of security but then, he said, "the inclusion of Israel in a Middle Eastern security order was not long ago thought possible."

"Unless we devise a system that can involve all regional parties without exclusion in addressing all issues without exception, we will not succeed in guaranteeing security in the Middle East," the Regent stated.

"Certain aspects of regional security must be considered in terms of regional development," the Regent said. "Peace-building is now of the essence and it cannot be a lip-service commitment."

Jordan is realistic on its approach to the future, he said. "We are not seeking charity, but investment in a common future. We call on all of those who have an interest in the Middle East to help us rebuild now, allowing

you that at the heart of our vision must be a notion of security: what it is, who it affects, and how it can be achieved. The first question is to do with the nature of security. In the Middle East as elsewhere, security has traditionally been defined by military criteria. The history of the twentieth century graphically demonstrates how inadequate this definition is. The pursuit of ever more deadly weapons, and the amassing of ever-larger armed forces, has not enhanced regional security. Some 200 billion dollars have been spent on arms in the Middle East this decade. This phenomenal expenditure has fostered only insecurity, as adversaries compete in an ever-escalating spiral, from one crisis to the next.

It is clear that security must be defined in a broader context. A better definition would include human resources, natural resources including land, and economic as well as military factors. Security can certainly be seen as covering a broad matrix of inter-connected issues such as food, water, energy, technology, finance, transport and communications. It includes questions of domestic infrastructure as well as questions of foreign policy. For a country's ability to provide jobs, houses and services for its people can serve as an indicator of its stability. A country that is providing for the needs of its people is unlikely to jeopardise its own security and that of its neighbours.

The manner in which the cold war ended proved beyond doubt that the power of human needs far outweighs that of conventional armies. In looking to the future of the Middle East, those same needs must be addressed if stability is to be guaranteed, and peace is to prevail. I recall that in 1986, Jordan tried to initiate a development effort to support the people of the occupied territories. The world did not heed our warning that the economic situation there was politically dangerous, and would have far-reaching consequences in terms of security. A year later, the intifada erupted. I would therefore suggest that an interdisciplinary view of security is essential if the Middle East is to enjoy a peaceful and stable future.

Having established the nature of our notion of security, the next question concerns its proper scope. Peace between Jordan and Israel comes within the context of regional transformation. In discussing security and economic cooperation, Jordanian Israeli negotiators both realised that while talk of security could not be confined to Jordan and Israel, there was a lacuna at the regional level. Regional security structures in the Middle East are relics of the cold war era; they were cer-

tainly not developed to deal with Arab-Israeli or inter-Arab peace. Indeed, hardly any viable structures of cooperation exist at all.

Both sides therefore agreed to a number of regional concepts in the treaty. These included a commitment to the creation of a conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East, culminating in a regional zone of security and stability; the idea of a partnership in peace; and a commitment to human resource development at the regional level. Such proposals embody the conviction that if peace is to succeed in the long-term, it must provide mechanism which allow all parties without exclusion to discuss all issues without exception. These parts of the treaty therefore call for an inclusive, inter-disciplinary approach, and I believe that it is this above all that must be developed if we are to vouchsafe the future of the region.

The first task must be to define what we mean by "the region." An area which includes Jordan, the PNA and Israel lies at the heart of all notions of the region. This area forms a natural pivot between the eastern Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Gulf and the hinterland which includes the countries north of the Arabian peninsula. In building a definition of the region and a vision for its future, we may begin with this heartland and work outwards, expanding the circle of peace, to use this conference's terminology. However, in the long term, it will not be possible to confine the Middle East to this core.

Unless a gradual plan is adopted to involve all the countries of a well-defined Middle East, the whole project may be in jeopardy.

Iraq, Iran and Turkey are essential components of this region and should not be kept out of our strategic plans. The inclusion of these countries will reduce the over-reliance presently only too evident on the U.S. and its Western allies for the security of the Gulf.

I am aware as I speak that "gathered" in this room are some of the architects of the "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran. It may seem outlandish to suggest that unless such countries eventually take their places in a regional security order, it will be fatally flawed. It is, however, worth considering that the inclusion of Israel in a Middle Eastern security order was not so long ago thought impossible. Back in 1989, I went out on a limb and said:

"(The) central spine of the Mashreq is contiguous to the non-Arab nations of the European Rim of Asia such as Turkey, Israel and Iran. Jordan's approach will hopefully make these borderlines with other nations a meeting ground of positive interaction and complementarity rather than war zones of conflict and turmoil." Ladies and gentlemen, the same holds true today. Unless we devise a system that can involve all regional parties without exclusion in addressing all issues without exception, we will not succeed in guaranteeing security in the Middle East.

I said at the outset that it was important to define who and what our notion of security involves, and how it is to be implemented. I have addressed the who and the what; but I now face the rather more daunting question of how.

Jordan has long called for the establishment of a forum along the lines of the CSCE, or OSCE as it is now known. We believe that such a forum could provide low-key institutional procedures to discuss the various and inter-connected topics that bear on regional security and cooperation. A CSCME would provide a focus for a non-military perspective on security. It would help us to develop a common regional vision, founded on common goals and aspirations, and built on structures of inter-connection and mutual aid. We believe that the future of the Middle East depends on such a vision, backed up by appropriate instruments, and we are prepared to do everything possible to help implement it.

Looking ahead, a CSCME might dovetail with existing security structures and fora, giving the region the benefit of the international community's experience and support. There can be no doubt that dialogue within the region, and between the region and the rest of the world, would play a significant part in countering extremism and enhancing the security of all. Jordan, with its proven commitment to peace and stability, its pivotal position in the region, and its experience of these issues, has much to contribute to such a dialogue.

But for the moment, we must ask ourselves what framework can at present promote security and development at the regional level. In February, I discussed a similar theme with thirty members of the Knesset during their visit to Amman. I suggested that the multi-lateral peace talks, the MENA Economic Summit, and the forthcoming launch of the EU-Mediterranean Partnership process in Barcelona were possible components of a framework for regional security.

I would like to go further today by posing a few questions. Can the multilaterals, launched by the Madrid peace process in 1991, evolve into a CSCME? Can the process be launched in Barcelona be integrated with the multilaterals or the proposed CSCME? Or will these eclectic processes represent in

hints, innuendoes and whips is out of keeping with the culture of peace. A public debate about the implications of peace is on, and it will continue. We call for an informed debate. The opponents of peace must spell out to their public the implications of continued conflict. They must explain the alternative to peace, and what it would mean for all of us. They must make clear that to reject peace is to embrace war, and that war offers no future but fear and death.

We believe that peace will be strengthened by rapid, sustainable, widely-shared economic growth. A partnership entailing joint commitments based on common interests will be central to achieving this goal. Our strategy is to harness a tri-lateral partnership of governments, businesses and international finance.

One of the most positive steps in this direction was the economic summit held last year in Casablanca. The Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Amman, which will be held this October, goes one step further. The Amman summit will seek to connect the right business groups with the right projects, outlining specific joint investments. It will discuss trade liberalisation and industrial policy, infrastructure and resource development, investment and financial mechanisms. The proceedings will be strongly business-oriented, and we hope that businesses of all sizes from all over the world will attend. With your involvement, we can ensure that the summit succeeds even before it convenes.

We are also considering mechanisms to institutionalise peace-building and to stimulate trade and investment. We are working on arrangements for a Middle East Development Bank, and a regional body patterned on the OECD. These should not be considered as ends in themselves, but as contributions to comprehensive security.

Our region must tap the global private investment market if reconstruction is to succeed. Lehman Brothers reckon the need for regional infrastructural investments at \$45 billion by the year 2000. We have projects lined up in fields as diverse as tourism, health, industry and export-oriented agriculture. All are viable, and will help to consolidate the peace; but all require investment. This will assist in tackling such legacies of the conflict as debt, although the major role there belongs to governments and financial institutions.

Our domestic priorities are to continue liberalising our political system and our economy. Pluralism, accountability and increased respect for human rights remain the goals of our democratisation process. On the economic side, the EU has described Jordan as the most advanced country of the region in implementing market-friendly reforms. As an emerging market, Jordan has the largest stock exchange in the Arab World, and we are planning a far-reaching privatisation programme. We are developing a progressive, transparent regulatory system while ensuring macro-economic stability. Under new legislation, all foreign investors will be treated on an equal basis, intellectual property rights will be protected, and we guarantee the repatriation of foreign capital and dividends. Our long-term goal is to liberalise and dismantle all barriers in the region, whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. We recognise that a non-discriminatory approach must be the cornerstone of a new economic order. In pursuing this goal, we are working to establish specialised economic zones to provide a fully deregulated environment for investment. Such free zones can form the nucleus of inter-regional and intra-regional free trade, investment and growth.

Jordan looks to the future with optimism tempered by realism. We are not seeking charity, but investment in a common future. We call on all of those who have an interest in the Middle East to help us rebuild now, allowing us to help ourselves and our neighbours in the future. By this I mean not only finance but creative thinking. The three questions I have posed today about security — who and what it involves, and how it should be achieved — will directly shape the future of the region. In considering how to answer them, you will make an important contribution to that future.

The U.S. can play a vital role in this process by promoting stability on a comprehensive matrix of themes. The issues to do with land and resources, identity and demography, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction are only the most prominent of those that should concern us. The security of the Middle East is not a short-term strategic objective, but a long-term commitment. I want to make it clear that Jordan is committed not only to its peace treaty with Israel, but to a new, inclusive Middle Eastern order of peace and security for all. Its leadership has consistently worked for reconciliation in the region. The penalty for our beliefs has been high at times, but we have always maintained their integrity. I want to leave you with the assurance that we will honour our commitments and hold fast to our vision of a Middle East at peace with itself and with the world outside.

Thank you very much.

Jordan-Israel agreements to be signed soon

(Continued from page 1)

Kalandia as a Palestinian airport.

Jordanian citizens are not allowed to sell lands or other real estate in Arab Jerusalem, but they can sell to other Jordanians; otherwise a Jordanian Council of Ministers' approval is required.

Dr. Muasher repeated that Jordan does not recognise Jerusalem as part of Israel but as part of the occupied

The ambassador stressed that Jordan's relations with Israel will not be at the expense of its relations with the other Arab states.

Noting that Jordanian-Palestinian ties are now stronger than ever, the ambassador said that Jordan was maintaining close contacts with Israeli Arabs who stood fast in their homeland over more than 50 years, retaining their Arab culture and Arab identity.

U.N. admits civilians hit

(Continued from page 1)

The operations would continue "until commanders decide" the Serbs had complied with the demands of NATO and the United Nations.

In Moscow, angered by their nation's declining clout, Russian lawmakers voted Saturday to demand the first of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev for the "utter helplessness" of Russian diplomacy in the Balkans.

The State Duma or lower house of parliament also urged in the non-binding vote that Russia suspend its participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme in protest against the air-strikes on Bosnian Serbs.

Voting nationalist sentiments in a special session called by three opposition factions, legislators called for President Boris Yeltsin to pass into law legislation it passed last month to unilaterally lift sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia.

The resolution, which passed 258-2, carries no force of law. But it signifies a political consensus Mr. Yeltsin cannot afford to ignore with his government's policies on public trial in the run up to December parliamentary elections.

The Serbs are Russia's historic ally in the Balkans and Moscow says the Serbs have been unfairly blamed by the West for the carnage in the former Yugoslavia.

The resolution called for a high level meeting of the contact group comprising Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States and also a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "assess the responsibility of

3 of 5 French oppose tests

(Continued from page 1)

by 59 per cent to 36 per cent, with five per cent undecided.

The new poll does not differ significantly from those conducted before Tuesday's test. French people had already expressed opposition at levels of between 60 and 63 per cent.

The latest IFOP poll was conducted Sept. 7-8 among 957 people described as over 18 and representative of the French population.

In London 2,000 people demonstrated in front of the French embassy in a protest called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) against the French resumption of nuclear tests.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette lashed out at European Union (EU) critics of France's decision to resume nuclear testing.

At his first meeting with his EU counterparts since France proceeded with the first of eight planned tests on Mururoa atoll, Mr. De Charette expressed dismay that countries like Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Sweden had undermined EU solidarity by publicly criticising the French decision.

Briefing journalists, Mr. De Charette described his statement as a "fraternal warning."

France was particularly angered by Swedish Culture Minister Margot Wallström's participation in an anti-nuclear demonstration in Tahiti earlier this month.

The incident, which the French government has condemned as unacceptable interference in its affairs, prompted the recall of Paris's

Buildup biggest since war

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador, Nizar Hadad.

The council last April authorised Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to enable it to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies for its economy ravaged by the sanctions.

Iraq has frequently rejected the scheme as it did to a similar council offer in 1991 on grounds that the heavy monitoring involved violated Iraqi sovereignty.

Iraqis reacted bitterly to the Security Council's decision to keep up the embargo on their country.

"We don't know how to cope with these rising prices, nor how to meet our needs with winter approaching," Mohammad Yassin, a civil servant and father of eight told AFP.

Galloping inflation caused by the embargo has decimated the dinar. The average monthly wage is now around 4,000 to 6,000 dinars, the equivalent of only \$2 to \$3

Hebron must be in deal -- Musa

(Continued from page 1)

chosen the wrong way to attack the Israeli-PLO accords.

Ibrahim Ghoshieh, the official spokesman for Hamas, sent a message to Colonel Qadhafi about "the unjustified expulsions," the group said in a statement.

"Hamas categorically refuses that the Palestinian people be placed under the hammer and anvil... and that they be the victims of a political position which is trying to express, in an erroneous way, a rejection of the Oslo accords" for autonomy, the statement said.

Col. Qadhafi called on Arab countries on Sept. 1 to expel Palestinians to the occupied West Bank to show up the failure of the accords which launched Palestinian self-rule (see page 12).

Col. Qadhafi's call was slammed by Mr. Arafat as a "deliberate provocation" and an attack on the Palestinian people.

Saudi farmers seen planting less wheat, barley

DUBAI (R) — Farmers in Saudi Arabia are planting less wheat and barley this year and output is expected to fall after the government cut subsidies and raised prices for diesel fuel, economists have said.

A drop in Saudi wheat output means it will not export wheat in the 1995/96 crop year. This is part of the kingdom's plans to align output with domestic consumption, the economists said.

They said barley imports would rise.

"They (Saudi government) have brought the wheat price down, they've brought the quota down and now they've put the fuel price up," an agricultural consultant told Reuters. "And that was like pouring water on a drowning man."

Farmers in Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, started exporting surplus wheat in the 1980s and sold about 1.5 million tonnes abroad in the year ending June 1995.

But an oil price fall has forced the country to cut generous subsidies and raise fuel prices to increase government revenue.

In June, Saudi Arabia said it would lower the price it pays wheat farmers to 1,500 riyals (\$400) a tonne from 2,000 (\$533) for the next crop, which will be planted in October and harvested next May or June.

"The fuel price has absolutely destroyed the economics of it (growing wheat and barley)," the Saudi-based consultant said. "They really are kicking them when

they're down."

The U.S. agricultural trade office in Riyadh released revised estimates Tuesday showing 465,000 hectares (1.1 million acres) will be harvested for wheat in 1995/96, down from its June estimate of 512,000 hectares (1.3 million acres). Area harvested in the previous year was 581,000 hectares (1.4 million acres).

The revisions put 1995/96 wheat output at two million tonnes, down from its June estimate of 2.2 million tonnes and compared with 1994/95 output of 2.5 million.

Its forecast for barley is 1.2 million tonnes in 1995/96 compared with earlier forecasts of 1.5 million. The U.S. report said the difference of 300,000 tonnes would be imported and raise total barley

imports to 4.5 million tonnes in 1995/96.

The consultant said wheat output could be 1.6 million tonnes based on estimates that farmers would harvest 400,000 hectares (988,000 acres) this year, 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres) less than last year.

The consultant also forecast lower yield because fertilizer prices rose 30 per cent and diesel used to pump scarce water soared 370 per cent since January.

"On a fair-sized diesel engine, it makes a horrendous difference on a wheat crop. They have cut back on input of urea and fuel. Previously the farmers just threw everything at it," he said. "I've seen many farms and I've never seen the wheat look as

bad as it did last year."

Another Saudi-based agricultural economist said he had initial estimates that the country would export about 600,000 tonnes in the 1995/96 crop year. He now says it would not export any wheat after revising down his estimates of area harvested.

"Output is down as some farmers didn't plant," said Hussein Mosa, an analyst at the U.S. office.

Economists see wheat output falling in two to three years to 1.5 million tonnes, about level with most estimates of demand.

"Their target is they want to equal consumption with production, and if they have a marginal oversupply, it would go into a strategic reserve," said the agricultural consultant.

Promises of higher pay add risk to Russian inflation

MOSCOW (R) — Russian inflation hit a post-reform low of 4.6 per cent in August but economists said promises of cash for teachers, soldiers and the fight against crime could make it hard for Moscow to meet its spending plans.

President Boris Yeltsin said teachers' pay would rise 50 per cent this month.

"The promises raise the ante for signs of a pre-election spending spree," said one economist. "But confirmation will only come if inflation rises or if the IMF detects a sign of increased credit emission in its regular monthly monitoring."

Economist sees China inflation at 17% in '95

BEDING (Agencies) — China faces a tough task to achieve its goal of a soft landing for its economy this year, with inflation expected to come in above target at 17 per cent, a leading Chinese economist has said.

A main factor to blame was artificially propped up prices by monopolies rather than maintenance of China's ambitious bid to free prices from decades of central planning, Yang Fan of the Institute of Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said in a telephone interview.

"It is impossible for China to achieve its inflation target of 15 per cent in 1995," he said.

"If China were to fulfil the target, inflation in the second half of the year would have to be no more than 11.5 per cent and this is impossible according to my forecasts," he said, adding he predicts inflation of 17 per cent in the year.

Retail price inflation in the January-July period was 17.9 per cent year-on-year. It fell to an annual 14.6 per cent in July from a post-1949 high of 21.7 per cent in 1994.

One major reason for a sharp fall in inflation that China achieved in the first seven months of the year was the use of administrative controls, the Economist Daily said.

"Almost half of all provinces and cities have reintroduced ration controls, and in the first half of the year the amount of finances used to support price subsidies rose 78.6 per cent compared with a year ago," the official newspaper said.

China will have to struggle to achieve a soft landing, Mr. Yang said.

He forecast inflation would fall through October but would rise again in the last two months of the year.

His views were echoed by the Economic Daily, which forecast a possible price rebound if the government relaxed its two-year-old stringent monetary policy in response to a rising government wage bill and higher consumption.

One reason for the slow fall in prices was the existence of a virtual monopoly system by some government departments and local regions, which set prices for their products to prevent the value falling.

Mr. Yang said he expected the government to set a goal of 10 per cent inflation in 1996.

"But that is impossible to achieve... my prediction is 15 per cent," he said.

China has identified combating inflation as its top 1995 priority after consumer price inflation hit a post-1949 high of 24.1 per cent last year, sparking fears of worker unrest.

However, diplomats have warned that much of the recent gains have been administrative and may have failed to tackle the basic cause of soaring prices.

Economic growth in 1995 would be around 10 per cent, Mr. Yang said, above a target of 8-9 per cent. However, he forecast growth at around 8.0 per cent in 1996 as a result of the tight monetary policy.

He dismissed rumours China might relax its tight monetary policy, despite appeals by struggling state-owned enterprises.

"If the government loosened control, one quarter of the money would flow into stocks, property and other forms of speculation instead of being invested in industry," he said.

Meanwhile, the Xinhua news agency reported that the economic situation had been on target so far this year but conceded that problems remained.

APEC investment principles fall short of global standards

TOKYO (AFP) — Only half of the investment principles adopted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum last year meet global standards and the rest need to be strengthened, an advisory group said.

In a report presented to Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama ahead of this year's summit of APEC leaders in Osaka in November, the APEC Eminent Persons Group also suggested that the 10 non-binding principles should become a "voluntary code" which could perhaps ultimately become a binding agreement.

"We firmly believe that APEC is able to adopt world-class investment principles and that it needs to do so to assure its future success," the influential advisory group said.

In its first comprehensive assessment of the progress of the 18-member group, the report noted that the investment issue was the "first on which APEC has taken collective action" since the forum was founded in 1989.

The principles adopted by APEC ministers in Jakarta last year are "useful first step, with five of the 10 agreed principles meeting or exceeding international norms," it said, referring to those dealing with transparency, non-discrimination, expropriation, settling disputes and tax measures.

But four of the principles "fall well short of standards that have been set in other international agreements — those pertaining to transfer of

funds, capital movements, national treatment and performance requirements."

The report said the principle on performance requirements, which restrict or limit the expansion of trade or investment, was actually "inconsistent" with the new rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"A fifth, regarding investment incentives, fails to meet the tests for breaking new ground in this difficult but very important field," it said.

"A fifth, regarding investment incentives, fails to meet the tests for breaking new ground in this difficult but very important field," it said.

The report said the wording of the principle for the transfer of funds "fails to provide assurances about the free transfer of funds, calling merely for further liberalisation without specifying the ultimate goal."

In the area of capital movement, APEC's acceptance that barriers to the outflow of capital will be "minimised" also poses problems.

"There are no criteria against which to determine when the relevant barriers are in fact minimised," the report said, adding that "the current language would allow almost any such barriers to be unchallenged."

APEC's national treatment principle would meanwhile allow exceptions for "any new departure from national or most-favoured-nation treatment of foreign investors that was passed into national law, embodied in a new regulation or simply incorpo-

rated in a statement of policy," the report said.

"A first step is strengthening the language would be to include a date establishing a standstill on such exceptions," it added.

The fourth area to come under attack was the principle stating that members will minimise performance requirements. "The wording provides no meaningful guidance," the report said, "since there is no objective way to determine when the use of performance requirements is 'minimised'."

"The language is in fact inconsistent with the new WTO obligations on local content and trade balancing requirements, which are handed under the agreement on trade-related investment measures that was reached in the Uruguay Round."

In addition, the report said the APEC commitment not to relax health, safety or environmental standards as an incentive to foreign investment did "not go far enough toward liberalising tax and subsidy incentives."

"APEC governments should make available information on any tax or subsidy incentives to foreign investment, impose no new investment incentives and seek to roll back such distortions."

The advisory group noted that such incentives had proved to be a "difficult area" in all international forums, with the Uruguay Round and the North American Free Trade Agreement both failing to address the issue.

Worker productivity in U.S. best in 9 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The productivity of the American work force posted its best quarterly performance in nine years, an efficiency that helped drive down labour costs.

The Labour Department said that non-farm productivity shot up 4.8 per cent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate from April through June, even stronger than its three per cent initial estimate last month.

The increase was the biggest since productivity — defined as output per number of hours worked — jumped seven per cent in the first three months of 1986.

It was much larger than the 3.5 per cent improvement that many analysts had expected and followed a 2.5 per cent gain in the latest January-March quarter.

Productivity is a key measure of the nation's living standards and business competitiveness. Increases mean companies are making their goods more efficiently and at lower costs.

"The fact that it is up so steeply is encouraging," said Samuel Kahan, a Chicago-based economist. "Usually toward the end of a business cycle, productivity tends to decline because resources have been exhausted."

"But we're now into the fourth year of the recovery and we're still getting solid growth," he added. "It rivals what we had in the 1980s and is considerably better than the '70s and '80s."

Productivity increased more than two per cent annually during the 1950s, but slowed to 1.5 per cent in the 1960s and 1970s and to less than one per cent in the 1980s, Mr. Kahan said.

Mr. Kahan and other economists attribute much of the recent gains to business investments in high-tech equipment and to the restructuring and downsizing.

The report also said unit labour costs, typically two-thirds of the cost of a product, fell 1.2 per cent during the three months ended June 30.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

in GAMLE

ACOOC

BARTIL

YULNOH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " " " " " " " " "

Saturday's Jumble: AUDIT BUMPY CARNAL SUCKLE
Answer: How pilots avoid mistakes — WITH "PLANE" TALK

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghon

Clarissa, look at my present!

WHAT SHE CONSIDERED HER NEW BRACELET.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

Our wedding day was the happiest day of my life!

What about the day we got cable?

Peanuts

WELL, HOW DID YOUR FIRST DAY IN COURT GO?

I THINK THE JUDGE HATES ME...

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE OFFERED HER A DOGGIE BISCUIT...

Andy Capp

GR-ROO

DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT MY COOKING! COOKING'S JUST A MATTER OF BLINDFOLDING ONE'S EYES, RIGHT?

WHY NOT?

HE'S NOT BURNING THE BOTTOMS OUT OF ANY NEW PANS!

Mutt'n'Jeff

WHAT? I SENT A POEM I WROTE TO THE NEWSPAPER ON MONDAY.

YES!

AND IT DID NOT APPEAR IN THE PAPER ON TUESDAY.

SO I'LL SEND THEM A SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTER ON WEDNESDAY.

I'LL GIVE IT TO A RIVAL PAPER ON FRIDAY!

WHAT CHA GONNA DO SATURDAY?

NOTHIN'.

I ONLY WORK FIVE DAYS A WEEK!

THE Daily Crossword

by Jay Sullivan

ACROSS

1 Handmaiden to Cleopatra

5 — she blows

9 Damp

14 Price

15 Space lead-in

16 Aromatic herb

17 Like some foul balls

19 Kind of boss

20 Former Indian VIP

21 Ship school

23 Villainous expressions

25 Maui memento

26 Clift

29 Newscast VIP

34 Foul play

39 Clearing in the woods

40 Mayberry lad

41 Sailing vessel

43 Lotion additive

44 One half of "The Odd Couple"

48 Unemployed

48 More submissive

50 Phone fee

51 A Bandy

53 Idler

56 Masterpiece

64 It can be grand

65 Adjust to fit

66 Hockey offense

68 Winter problem

69 Biographer

Ludwig

70 Stone suff

71 Latches

72 Gainsay

73 Bible book: abbr.

DOWN

1 Sacred images

2 Who's Jean of the ...

3 — crowflies

4 Boutique

5 Spigot

6 Beatles movie

7 Asian lake

8 Majestic

9 Chopping to pieces

10 Biblical word

11 Painter Joan

12 Author Dinesen

13 Moist

18 Like animals

22 Day's opposite

24 Mends

27 — contendere

28 Game fish

30 Grizzly weapon

31 Nimbus

32 What the nose knows

33 Fume

34 Tragic destiny

35 — dixit

36 Paddy plan!

37 Shipplander's wood

38 Japanese stringed instrument

42 Take a vote

45 Breaks the news

47 Bowl over

49 Whistle-blower, for short

52 Stared

54 Pome

55 See 44A

56 Milton's Muse

57 Like a sunflower

58 Lave

59 Pot

60 Map abbrs.

61 Retain

62 GA city

63 Double

67 He was Tarzan

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

MALTIA SAROMILE
ARIEL ERIE ONIT
MEAS TYPANAINA
ASTRODOMIE GENET
AVERAGE TIP
RAVINE ROSEBOWL
ETAIL EYE OLEA
ASSEMBLE BALLAD
OIL MALLARD
CADIZ HEEL
PAIRS METRODOMIE
ILLATEASE VIRAL
ELIEM ORSO ERAISE
OAOA SEER RENTIE

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter, Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to study your environment and make any improvements you feel are necessary, and you will be happier.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are obstacles against your having a grand time today, so be content with simple and wholesome pleasures which are best.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have to be calm, cool and collected at home if you want to maintain harmony there today. This is not a good day to entertain.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study further into the philosophy of life you profess and you can make later today much higher thereby.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study your financial status well and know how to cut down on expenses so that you can build a reserve quickly.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There is a very little you can do about conditions today, so accept them and carry on wisely or there could be problems.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to work on odds and ends so that you make time for bigger things ahead. Stave off tension at home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may meet with a disappointment when a friend is concerned today, so postpone asking a favour about a new idea.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Avoid the limelight today and steer clear of an encounter with a twig. Get busy at new interests for your success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want to get into some new interests, but you need more data before you can do so successfully.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have to be patient today when many irritations may arise so that you do not lose your equilibrium.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to please a partner who is in a bit of a turmoil and show you are loyal and understanding. This is not a good day to discuss future agreements.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE JORDAN TIMES

DISAG

among the board of the Al Qumia Construction M... have led to liquidation of... before it starts... A meeting of assembly app... quation Al... buy an establ... company bu... broke up af... Party withdr... A board me... Abdul Halim... the man beh... tion of the co... the board of... Qumia and... the industry... ae. Having... price he wa... tory and be... shareholder... man of A... Aldeen dr... shareholdin... liquidation... the general... company's... and that sh... back their i... Ra'i)

WON

libid Dis

Company

higher wa

timed res

living and

power esp

counterpar

tions recei

privileges

are seekin

increase a

allowance

37.5 (A)



Tennis star Boris Becker of Germany and wife Barbara arrive at the 1995 MTV Video Music Awards at the Radio City Music Hall in New York. Becker will be playing Andre Agassi in the semifinal of the U.S. Open (AFP photo)

Becker, Courier stand in way of dream final

NEW YORK (R) — And now only Boris Becker and Jim Courier stand in the way of the match of the entire tennis world has been clamouring for — an Andre Agassi-Pete Sampras U.S. Open final.

The pre-tournament buzz has grown to fever pitch in recent days as Agassi and Sampras made their inexorable marches toward what many hope will be a climatic final showdown.

And why not? They are the two finest tennis players in the world battling for supremacy on the Grand Slam stage with their national title on the line.

The extreme contrast in their playing styles and personalities make the hotly anticipated match-up all the more compelling, as does the feeling each carries that when on top of his game, there is only one player on the planet that can beat him.

"I look at Pete like he is playing his best tennis, he is the guy I got to worry about the most," said top-ranked defending champion Agassi.

From the first round, there has not been one Agassi interview where he has not been asked about Sampras, nor a Sampras interview without the inevitable Agassi question. Each time they declare it premature to discuss such a meeting.

Now they are just one victory away, yet each faces such formidable opposition — Agassi from Becker and Sampras from Courier — that the made-for-TV "Super Saturday" format may just live up to its name.

Rarely has there been four U.S. open semifinals with

such impeccable Grand Slam pedigrees as the class of '95. All four have been number one in the world and Becker, Sampras and Agassi have all won the tournament, while Courier was runner-up in 1991.

Between them, Becker, Sampras, Agassi and Courier have claimed seven Wimbledon crowns, four U.S. Open titles, five Australian and two French Opens.

Both semifinals feature classic match-ups of serve and volley versus baseline basher.

And Becker has already spoiled the Sampras-Agassi party once this year with a stirring come-from-behind semifinal win over Agassi at Wimbledon, a victory that put the German star into his seventh Wimbledon final.

At 27 the elder statesman of the group, Becker has been playing excellent tennis the past two weeks and declared himself at the top of his hardcourt game.

"I smell that I have a chance. I'm going to have to raise my game up another level," said the fourth seed, who lost to Agassi in the 1990 U.S. Open semis.

Agassi, who reached the final of all nine hardcourt tournaments he entered this year, has often played only as well as he has needed to in order to win, but winning has become a habit.

Since falling to Becker on the German's favourite playground in July, Agassi has not lost. He takes a 25-match winning streak and a taste for revenge into Saturday's showdown.

"I've had a lot of good

Graf, Seles sweep semifinals

NEW YORK (R) — The dream final became a reality as rollicking Monica Seles and emboldened Steffi Graf posted straight-set victories on Friday to set up a championship clash at the U.S. Open.

Seles, making a glorious return to Grand Slam tennis after a 28-month competitive absence, soared past last year's Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, 6-2, 6-2.

Graf, hampered by physical problems and emotional traumas of her own, battled fiercely to beat longtime rival Gabriela Sabatini 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), to set up the showdown between the world's co-number ones.

"Playing against Steffi is going to be fun. It's going to be a great day whatever happens," Seles said between bouts of barely controllable giggles.

Just to be in the final, gosh is someone had told me one year, or two years ago that I'd have a chance to go out and play great tennis tomorrow, it's beyond what I dreamed of."

In a strange twist to this

improbable tennis saga, the finalists have virtually swapped roles in terms of favourite and underdog in the year's last Grand Slam.

Coming into the tournament, Seles, sidelined by the physical and then emotional pain caused by the knife stabbing attack by a deranged Graf fan during a match in Hamburg, was seen as the underdog hoping to shake off the rust well enough to contend.

Graf was the world beater, winning Wimbledon and the French Open and losing just one match in 33 for the year.

On the National Tennis Centre stage, however, Seles has been in full bloom, competing with obvious relish and smashing success.

Graf, meanwhile, has battled injury and openly admitted to feeling the emotional fallout of having her father, Peter, imprisoned in Germany on tax evasion charges.

After clinching her hard-fought, one-hour 38-minute victory over Sabatini, the 26-year-old Graf ran to a court-side box to embrace her mother, Heidi, and her Swiss

coach Heinz Gunthardt.

"I didn't expect to be able to get to the finals, so it really got to me," said Graf about her emotional display.

Graf was bothered before the tournament by a chronic back injury and has suffered a bone irritation in her left foot that required attention during the first set against Sabatini.

But the sombre way she has comforted herself at the Open speaks volumes about the stress she has endured since her father's imprisonment.

"I think there's a whole list I could mention on why I didn't think I would be there," Graf said about reaching the final. "It took a lot out of me, the last few weeks. Much more than at any other stage in my life."

"What I've achieved already here means so much more than what I achieved at Wimbledon or Paris," said Graf, who captured both those titles this year. "It's definitely been the most demanding time and the most demanding inside of me."



Monica Seles

Insiders give Seles slight nod in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (R) — Monica Seles and Steffi Graf followed the fairytale script on Friday to set up the match the tennis world has been waiting more than two years to watch.

"This is as good as it gets," Martina Navratilova said of the Seles-Graf showdown in the U.S. Open women's final on Saturday.

"Tomorrow is going to be fantastic," Navratilova said after the top-seeded Graf beat ninth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini and second-seed Seles mauled fourth-seed Conchita Martinez in the semifinals.

"Both of them are two of the all-time greats," Navratilova said of duo, who be-

lieved to have won 25 Grand Slam titles. "This is the best final you could ask for."

The pair have not played since Seles won a three-set final at the 1993 Australian Open. Three months later Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg. She missed the next 10 Grand Slams before returning to competition last month.

Having waited this long for a rematch, tennis people are calling it the year's finest moment.

"I think it could be the match of the whole year," said Dutch tennis coach Betty Stove, the 1977 Wimbledon

finalist. "I think it will be one of those really tense, dramatic matches," said Briton Virginia Wade, winner of three Grand Slam singles titles in her hall of fame career. "It's fantastic."

"I'm pretty sure it will go three sets," Stove said. "Though Graf leads the career series 6-4, it is Seles who is given the edge by insiders this time."

"I think Monica will win," Stove said of the 21-year-old naturalised American.

"I think she is eager, she will fight to the end and has nothing to lose. Her serve has improved from what it was two years ago."

"Monica is very positive on everything," Stove said of Seles who has not lost a set.

Graf had a shaky start in a three-set struggle against South African Amanda Coetzer in the first round but has not lost another set since.

"At the beginning of the tournament I was heavily in favour of Seles," said Wade. "Then halfway through the tournament Steffi started to play and look very good and very fit."

"I now have to consider it a pretty even match. I could say one moment Monica will win it... and in the next moment I could say Steffi will win it, if..."

When pressed for a winner Wade replied: "I would say 51 percent to 49 in favour of Monica."

Navratilova gives the nod to Seles because of the consistency she has with her two-fisted groundstrokes.

"It will be a slugfest and I would have to give the edge to Monica just because she is steadier on both sides and has been throughout the tournament," she said.

If there is doubt about who will win, there is no question about how the match will be played.

"I will be played at full

tilt," Wade said of two biggest hitters from the baseline in the women's game.

"It is two tigers," Stove said. "I don't think this is a match of who is going to make the last mistake. This is going to be a slugfest."

The stakes are as high as they can get, according to Stove.

"I think it is battle for number one," she said. "It looks like Monica has never left. It will decide who is actually number one for this year."

The 26-year-old Graf took over number one from Seles and has held that spot since the stabbing except briefly earlier this year when Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario moved ahead of the German for a few weeks.

Seles was given a co-ranking of number one as part of her return to the WTA Tour.

While Seles gets the nod, Wade knows that Graf can tip the balance her way. "Monica" has played incredibly well but she hasn't had somebody quite as athletic and who generates as much pace as Steffi," said Wade.

"She might find that a little difficult to cope with."

Food poisoning mars Tour of Spain

ZAMORA, Spain (R) — A bout of food poisoning turned the Tour of Spain into the survival of the fittest on Friday.

Forty-five riders from seven competing teams fought bouts of diarrhoea and stomach cramps as they struggled through the 264 km sixth stage from Orense to Zamora.

Race leader Laurent Jalabert was among the victims of the outbreak, believed to have stemmed from a Bolognese sauce or cream dessert at dinner on Thursday night.

"Like everyone I had problems today, but I feel better now," the Frenchman said.

There was more drama near the end when about 10 riders crashed heavily as they reached themselves for the sprint to the line.

Spain's Jose Santamaria was taken to hospital with a broken collar-bone and suspected head injuries. He was detained overnight for observation.

Italy's Nicola Minali managed to avoid both illness and crash and sped to victory in the longest section of the race. He spent seven hours 27 seconds in the saddle achieving it.

Marcel Wust of Germany and Adriano Baffi of Italy were second and third respectively.

Jalabert, who leads Spaniard Abraham Olano by 29 seconds and Switzerland's Alex Zülle by 38 seconds, needs to dominate the 41 km time trial in Salamanca to put the outcome beyond the reach of his rivals.

De La Hoya set for WBO lightweight title bout

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Winning fights hasn't been much of a problem for Oscar De La Hoya in his young pro career. Winning over fans has proven more difficult.

That shouldn't change Saturday night when Genaro Hernandez figures to be the fan favourite when he challenges De La Hoya for the WBO lightweight title.

"Every time I step in the ring they're always cheering for the other guy," De La Hoya said. "I'm not sure what it is. But in time people will see the best in me. I know in time I can capture the fans out there."

The 1992 Olympic gold medalist takes on a fellow Los Angeles champion for the second time in as many fights when he meets Hernandez in the scheduled 12-round fight at Caesars Palace.

In De La Hoya's last fight, he stopped Rafael Ruelas in the second round, much to the dismay of the crowd that cheered Ruelas wildly when

he entered the ring. "My fights have been good fights but people don't want to accept it," he said. "A lot of fans say maybe my fights are fixed because I'm knocking these guys out easy. I'll be 30-0 and it still will be the same way."

It's not as if De La Hoya doesn't try to build a following. The 22-year-old is handsome, flashes a ready smile and is articulate and agreeable in interviews.

His fights draw fairly well, although the bout against Hernandez isn't expected to be a sellout in the 15,000-seat outdoor arena at Caesars. Pay-per-view sales are expected to be decent, but part of that is due to the following Hernandez, has in the Los Angeles area.

The problem might stem from a feeling among many fight fans that De La Hoya's career is manufactured and that he is being marketed too slickly for a boxer with only 18 pro fights.

Nigeria tipped for African Games soccer title

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Nigeria are favoured to win the sixth All-African Games soccer finals, a tournament restricted to players under 23 which begins in Harare on Tuesday.

The west Africans who can call on European-based professionals like Nwankwo Kano and Augustine Okacha, have been paired with Guinea, Algeria and Mauritius in Group B.

Hosts Zimbabwe, neighbours Zambia, Egypt and Congo, who surprisingly eliminated defending champions Cameroon in qualifying rounds, comprise Group A.

Because teams change for each tournament due to the age limit, there is no form guide, although recent Olympic qualifying matches offer an insight into the potential of some finalists.

Apart from overcoming Ivory Coast in the All-Africa Games preliminaries, Nigeria have defeated Kenya and Egypt in the Olympic qualifiers with a win in Mombasa and draw in Cairo suggesting they travel well.

Guinea could pose the biggest threat judging by the convincing manner in which they dealt with Senegal last month, winning both legs with Abdul Karim Sylla leading the goal charge.

The Guineans may not be

strong enough for Nigeria but they have a psychological advantage over Algeria having defeated the North Africans 3-1.

Mauritius owe their place among finalists more to geographical location than soccer strength, qualifying from the Indian Ocean section on a bye after cash-strapped Madagascar withdrew.

Zimbabwe, bolstered by home advantage and courage in the face of adversity, are likely to be one of the Group A semi-finalists, with Zambia and Egypt battling for the other slot.

After struggling to overcome Mauritius in the Olympic qualifiers, Egypt offered stern resistance against the Nigerians with Emam Hazeem scoring twice to take the tie to the wire.

Zimbabwe snatched a last-minute equaliser from Elasto Lungu, the son of the former national defender Effort, at home to Zambia in the same competition, then won in Lusaka to confirm their fighting spirit.

Congo, whose under-23 team replaced the senior side of African Nations Cup qualifier against Ghana in July to gain international experience, are dark horses and worthy of respect for toppling Cameroon.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Symphony to perform in Atlanta '96

ATLANTA (AP) — A performance by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra during the 1996 Olympics will be "a dream come true," musical director Yoel Levi said. Organisers announced that the 96-member orchestra, with Levi and other conductors taking turns, will perform in the Games' opening ceremony. The orchestra is the first artist or group to be announced for the July 19 ceremony, which kicks off the centennial of the modern games. "For the orchestra, it's a dream come true, just as the Olympics were a dream come true for everyone in Atlanta," Levi said after signing a contract to perform.

Martin, Fitz-Gerald in squash final

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AFP) — Michelle Martin and Sarah Fitz-Gerald, world number one and two, made it an all-Australian final in the Professional Squash Association/Women's International Squash Players Association (PSA/WISPA) tournament here on Saturday. Martin, who crashed to fellow Australian Liz Irving in the Malaysian Open final in May, gained sweet revenge over the world number four with a gruelling 10-9, 6-9, 3-9, 9-3, 9-6 win in the semi-finals. Fitz-Gerald, runner-up to Martin at the world open in Hong Kong in July, got off to a flying start to beat fifth-ranked Cassie Jachman of England 9-2, 9-0, 4-9, 9-6.

Brazil into volleyball GP final

HAMAMATSU, Japan (AFP) — Brazil pulled off a four-sets victory over world champions Cuba on Saturday to earn a place in the final stage at the two million dollar women's volleyball world grand prix. The Brazilians who crashed in Cuba in the world championship final in straight sets last year, saved some face by scoring a 15-12, 15-13, 11-15, 15-10 victory.

Fan resists offers to sell Ripken home run ball

BALTIMORE (AP) — Bryan Johnson got something even better than the home run ball Cal Ripken hit on the night he broke Lou Gehrig's consecutive baseball games record. He got to meet his hero in person.

Despite a cast for a fractured thumb, Johnson caught Ripken's fourth inning homer as it sailed over the left-field fence Wednesday night.

He was immediately bombarded with offers to buy the ball.

"I think I took one step and there was a person out there with a rather substantial wad of money saying 'three thousand, I'll give you four thousand, I'll give you

five thousand. How much do you want?'"

But Johnson, 33, told Orioles officials he wanted to give the ball to Ripken — in person.

"This is Cal's moment," he said. "I wanted him to have the ball."

Johnson met Ripken and his family after 2 a.m. Thursday to offer his congratulations and the home run ball.

But Ripken didn't let Johnson go away empty. He gave Johnson a bat on which he wrote:

"Bryan, thank you very much for the ball. It means a lot to me. We both share the same memory. Home run on 9-6-95. Cal."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

FIND THE RIGHT CARD

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K1097
♥ QJ98
♦ 10
♣ 542

WEST
♠ Q8542
♥ A8
♦ A
♣ KJ10976

EAST
♠ A8
♥ Q8753
♦ QJ98532
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ AJS
♥ K1042
♦ AQ7
♣ A83

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

When this deal was played in a world championship pair competi-

tion, more than half the players in the East seat opened with three diamonds—hardly a thing of beauty and a joy for a short time only had the North-South players elected to double and defend properly to exact the maximum punishment. However, most Souths chose to bid three no trump and that became the final contract.

After a diamond lead 11 tricks are no problem as long as declarer first tackles hearts and then takes a safety finesse through West for the queen of spades. However, many of the Wests whose partners preempted in diamonds knew what sort of suit to expect in the opposite

hand, and selected a club as the opening suit.

Where the jack of clubs was led, declarer ducked the first trick and, since East was unable to return the suit, the contract again easily produced two overtricks. Yet it could have been defeated. If West was going to lead a club, surely the king would have been a better choice. If declarer holds the ace and queen, even if in different hands, there are always two tricks to bank. The lead of the king wins if any of the other three players holds a singleton queen and would have been devastating here. Even with a successful spade finesse, declarer has only eight tricks.

Sports

JBF resumes local basketball agenda

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following the completion of their national team agenda in the first half of the year, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) is back to its local timetable this week with the start of the second division tournament.

Only seven teams are taking part. Homenmen and Al Hussein who were relegated last year, in addition to Al Yarmouk are the top contenders.

The competing teams will be playing the first round in two groups. Group A includes Gazzei Hashem, Al Ashrafieh and Al Hussein who will be playing in Irbid. Group B teams will be playing in Amman. They are Homenmen, Al Jeel, Yarmouk and Karak.

The top two of each group will play a knockout second round starting Sept. 18. The winners will then play the final match Sept. 20 to determine the second division champion — the team that will be promoted to the first division next year.

After the conclusion of second division tournament, women's teams will be in action Sept. 25 and the Under-22 teams Oct. 3. Both competitions were abruptly put on hold and postponed following the Aug. 20 U-22 violence that erupted in the Ahli-Orthodox match. Since then Al Orthodox have announced they were pulling out of all JBF competitions.

It was not clear however if Al Orthodox, a powerhouse in Jordanian basketball, will hold on to their controversial decision. If they do and fail to show up for their scheduled matches JBF regulations stipulate that players of a withdrawing team would be automatically free to join other clubs. That would leave only Jazireh, Ahli and Yarmouk in the women's competition and Jazireh, Ahli and Yarmouk in the U-22.

Coulthard takes pole position

ITALY (R) — David Coulthard on Saturday enhanced his prospects of securing a seat with Ferrari next season when he grabbed pole position for the Italian Grand Prix.

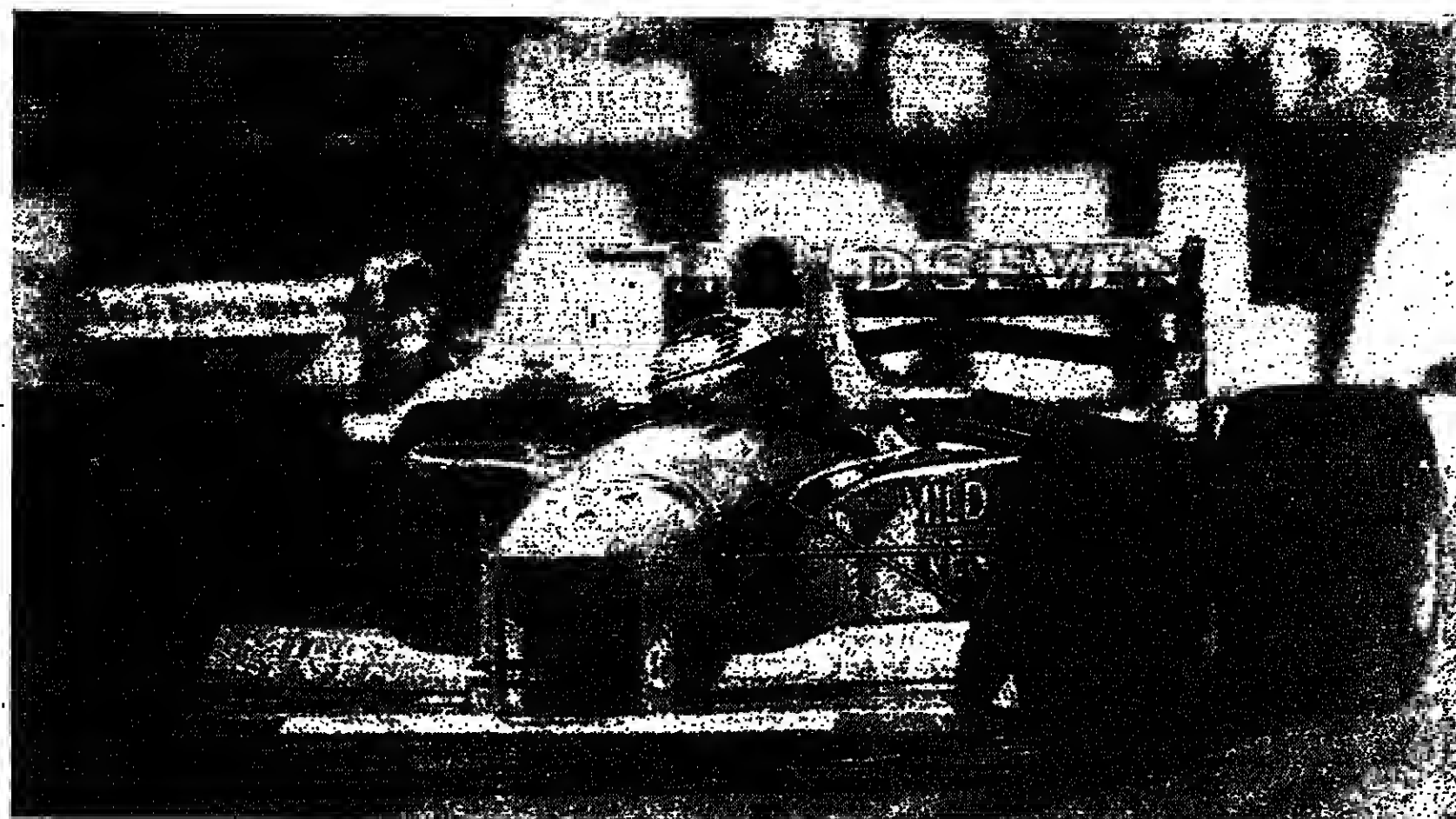
The 24-year-old Scot, who is to be replaced at Williams by Canadian Jacques Villeneuve, was in dominant form again in final qualifying.

He had been quickest throughout Friday's opening session to take the overnight pole position and he continued in the same vein, eclipsing his Williams team mate Damon Hill and defending world champion and current leader Michael Schumacher in a Benetton.

Coulthard's pole was his second of the season and the second of his career, giving him a great chance of claiming his first win.

Schumacher made a big effort in the closing five minutes to force his way on to pole but had to settle for second place alongside his possible future Ferrari team mate.

Their pairing on the front row might be a dream for the Italian fans in 1996 but it was not greatly appreciated on Saturday as it meant the Ferraris of departing Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi were



Michael Schumacher of Germany in his Benetton (AFP photo)

relegated to third and fifth spots on the grid for Sunday's 66-lap race.

Hill, who slid across a kerb and on to the grass in his bid to improve, ended up fourth-fastest and will start the race from the second row.

The session features a frightening accident when

Italian Luca Badoer lost control of his Minardi at the Variante Ascari. His car crashed backwards into the barriers, spun across a gravel trap and ended up rolling upside down before bouncing to a halt.

The car lost a wheel and the rear wing in the impact

but it appeared that Badoer was only badly shaken.

Badoer's first thought was for his mother. "She will have watched this on television," he said. "I must go and telephone her to tell her I am all right."

Coulthard, who was on pole on Argentina in the second race of the year, was hoping for better luck on Sunday.

In Buenos Aires he led for the opening 14 laps but was then forced to retire.

"I am getting my confidence and my strength back again now," he explained when asked about this recent improvement in form.

"I just need a bit more luck, too. Things are starting to come together... if we get our strategy and our race set-in right I am confident I

am quick enough to win."

Schumacher, is points clear of hill in the title race, was relieved to, earn a place on the front row of the grid. "It has taken me longer than I can remember to find the set-up I needed for a good lap time," he said.

Stringent security planned for Liverpool visit

MOSCOW (R) — Officials in Russia's troubled north Caucasus have ordered stringent security measures for Liverpool's trip to play Spartak Vladikavkaz in UEFA Cup tie on Tuesday.

"We are hosting a soccer event of that scale and importance for the first time and I can say for us it is larger than life," said police spokesman Viktor Dzhyoyev on a crackling telephone line from Vladikavkaz, capital of the north Ossetia ethnic region some 1,400 kilometres south of Moscow.

"There will be uniformed and plain clothes policemen, security agents everywhere, even army units will be on call."

North Ossetia is neighbouring Chechnya where Russian troops have been fighting local separatists for several months.

Dzhyoyev said special forces in combat gear would be deployed near the Liverpool hotel and the stadium where the first round, first leg match is to be played.

Asked about the number of people involved in the security operation, he said: "We post dozens for ordinary teams, in this case it is more than 1,000."

But Spartan's official Akhsar Kokoyev said Liverpool players and officials should have no fears for their safety.

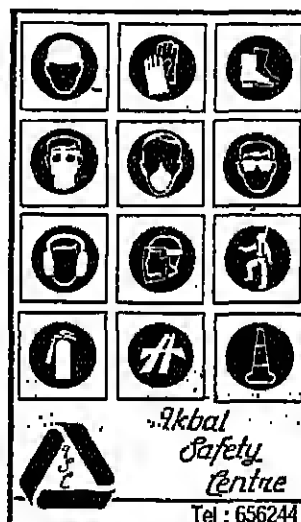
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEEDED

The Forte Grand Amman Hotel is looking to hire an Executive Secretary for the Human Resources Department with the following qualifications:

- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Computer skills - Microsoft word or equivalent with excellent typing skills in English and Arabic
- Previous experience of at least 3 years in a similar position.
- Strong organisation and filing skills,
- Willing to work under pressure.

Please contact the Human Resources Department Forte Grand Amman Hotel with copies of qualifications and certificates between 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. to fill an application

FORTE GRAND
AMMAN



FOR SALE

Mitsubishi - 1992

Gallant, super saloon, 2000 cc, automatic, A/C and all other options, excellent condition, has done 50,000 kms only.

Please contact 823289

FOR RENT

Super deluxe flat, 4th / 5th Circle area, 2 terraced gardens, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, telephone, excellent view, overlooking Abdoun valley

Please contact 823289

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Independent first floor apartment with garden and independent garage, consisting of 2 bedrooms, spacious kitchen guest room, sitting & dining room, maid's room, glassed-in veranda, independent central heating with telephone. Very good furniture. Please call: 665711, 664256

VACANT FLAT FOR RENT

Newly built, at Al Hussein Housing Estate, beginning of Mecca Street. Consisting of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large Jwico kitchen, with garden, garage, central heating and separate entrance. Annual rent JD 3200
Call Tel: 665265

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

5th Circle

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, salon and kitchen. Please call Tel: 616614, 696713 between 3 - 9 p.m. N.B.: Yearly payment

FURNISHED / UNFURNISHED FLOOR

FOR RENT OR SALE

Location: off Mecca St., Um Al Summaq
Call owner 829099 p.m.

FOR ANNUAL RENT

- 1- Semi villa, two floors, 500 m. west of American Embassy.
- 2- Roof, 3 bedrooms (one master) with lift, 700 m. north west of American Embassy.

Interested please call 812017, Abu Emad

VILLA FOR RENT

New luxurious super deluxe villa in prime location in Abdoun, ready for occupation American system. Built up area app. 1,100 sq.m. (B.F., G.F. & F.F.), for rent to embassy or diplomatic missions.

Interested to call 691267 between 4:30 to 8:00 PM (Sat. to Monday), Mr. Hani or Mr. Abdulla.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEDICAL STUDENTS. AND WE'RE LOOKING EVERYWHERE.

The best candidates for physicians are bright, determined, strong, empathetic. And we're determined to find them. St. George's University now offers a premedical course leading into the School of Medicine as well as independent baccalaureate degree programs. The courses include varying points of entry, depending on your educational background and achievements. If you believe you can meet our standards for excellence, contact Office of Admissions, Dept. AJ06, St. George's University School of Medicine, c/o the North American Correspondent, Medical School Services, Ltd. One East Main Street, Bay Shore, New York 11706-8399 516-665-8500 • Fax: 516-665-5590 • Email: sgu_info@msl.mssd.com Look for us on the World Wide Web in late Fall 1995.

St. George's University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Shaping the world...one mind at a time

St. George's University now offers the following degree programs:

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

This program is for students who have a bachelor's degree with a solid foundation in the biomedical sciences.

Premedical Program

The first year of the three-year continuum in premedicine leading to the Doctor of Medicine Program is designed for students presenting achievement at the Ordinary Level (or the equivalent).

Students presenting credentials such as the Matriculation Certificate in South Africa will be assessed for the second year. Candidates need Advanced Levels in sciences and math, or the equivalent, to be considered for the third year.

BSc Programs

Two bachelor's degree programs in Medical Technology and Basic Medical Sciences - are available. All courses are in English. Our campuses are located in Grenada and St. Vincent, with affiliated hospitals in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean.

HOTEL
INTER-CONTINENTAL
JORDAN



BURKHARA
RESTAURANT

Unmistakably Indian

Discover the authentic Indian taste hidden within every single bite of our dishes. We welcome you for lunch or dinner. Come try our chicken curry or Dal Tadka

Dare to be different

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm 7:00 pm - 11:30 pm

For reservations please call 641361 ext. 2222

Uniquely Inter-Continental

CINEMA TEL: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Woody Harrelson & Kiefer Sutherland

The Cowboy Way

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam & Yusra

Birds of the Darkness

(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra

Birds of the Darkness

(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45

CONCORD "2" Striking Distance

Shows: 3:30, 5:45, 8:45, 10:45

AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275

MUSA HIJAZIN

"Sumaa"

Hi Citizen

daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571

Presents

KABARET

Abeer Issa Ghassan Mashini

with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali

The theatre closes on Monday Performances start at 8:30 p.m.

Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155

AHLAN THEATRE

presents

(Ahlan Tatbee)

Welcome Normalisation

Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman

Darwazeh leaves for Iraq to renew oil deal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh headed for Iraq to renew an annual agreement under which Iraq supplies Jordan's oil needs, officials said.

The officials, however, would not confirm or deny a report in the local press that the government had ordered the freezing of a study to build a pipeline to pump Iraqi oil to Jordan or whether the pipeline project was in the agenda for Mr. Darwazeh's talks in Baghdad.

However, industry sources quoted by news agencies said the project was to be discussed by Mr. Darwazeh and his Iraqi counterpart, General Amer Rasheed, who took office three months ago.

It is the first visit of a Jordanian cabinet minister to Iraq following the Aug. 8 defection in Jordan of two senior Iraqi officials and follows the reported receipt of a message from a deputy to President Saddam Hussein that Baghdad was keen to maintain its strong ties with Jordan despite the Jordanian decision to grant the defectors asylum.

The message came from Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Mr. Darwazeh was scheduled to leave for Baghdad on Sept. 1 for discussions on the oil contract as well as the proposal for 600-kilometre that will run from the Iraqi

town of Haditha to the Kingdom's only refinery at Zarqa.

But the minister's visit was postponed because of "technical reasons," officials said last week, emphasising that the postponement was not related to an uneasiness in relations between Baghdad and Amman following the defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, his brother Saddam Kamel and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam.

Jordan imports 50,000 barrels of crude and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil every day from Iraq and is the only country allowed to import oil from the Kingdom's eastern neighbour, which is under international sanctions that bar all exports.

The projected pipeline will have an initial capacity of 100,000 barrels per day and will replace the present trucking system, which Mr. Darwazeh has described as expensive and hazardous. It costs Jordan about JD 30 million per year to transport Iraqi oil.

The Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i reported Saturday that the government had ordered a study on the project to be frozen as a result of a "financing problem" for the Iraqi section of the pipeline.

According to Al Ra'i, each country was expected to finance its section of the pipeline.

In addition to the purported problem, Al Ra'i said, "recent political developments had weighed on the decision to shelve the study as fears have risen of a stoppage in Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan and the possibility has

risen that Jordan would turn to oil from the Gulf states."

However, sources quoted by Reuters described the pipeline as "a priority project" and it was scheduled to be discussed by Mr. Darwazeh and his Iraqi counterpart.

According to the source, Mr. Darwazeh will assure Iraq that Jordan does not plan to suspend its oil imports from Iraq in the "foreseeable future" and seeks "strategic long-term cooperation" once the international sanctions on Iraq are lifted.

The economics of buying from Iraq outweigh at least in the short term the "high economic and political cost of switching to Saudi oil," Reuters quoted the source as saying.

According to Reuters, Jordan pays market price for 25,000 barrels per day of Iraqi crude at market prices and for another 25,000 bpd of petroleum products. "The rest is at undisclosed concessionary terms," the agency reported.

The precise conditions of the Iraqi oil sale are not known. Mr. Darwazeh said in an interview early this year that Iraq was giving Jordan a \$1 per barrel discount on international market prices.

Part of the oil supply is adjusted against Iraqi debts to Jordan and part is settled in Jordanian exports of food and medicine.

According to the Reuters report, \$400 million is deposited yearly in an escrow account at the Central Bank of Jordan to pay Jordanian firms for the exports of food and medicine.



BUILDUP: American aircraft carriers Abraham Lincoln and the Independence cruise the central waters of the Gulf. Sailing 500 metres apart and surrounded by seven cruisers and destroyers, the two carriers are deployed in the Gulf after the U.S. said it detected "unusual" Iraqi troop movements (see page one) (AFP photo)

Iran to build only 1 nuclear plant -- envoy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's ambassador to Moscow says Tehran will build no nuclear reactors other than a partially-finished power plant Russia has agreed to complete over U.S. objections, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday.

The official agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mehdi Safari as saying that "Iran will sign no other agreement on building another nuclear power plant."

It was the first time an Iranian official has made such a pledge and it was not immediately clear whether that marked a significant change in policy by Tehran.

Iranian officials have been quoted as saying 10 nuclear plants were planned.

But Washington claims Iran is engaged in a clandestine programme to develop nuclear weapons — which Tehran denies — and is pressuring the Russians to scrap the reactor deal.

A Russian delegation is due in Washington this week and the Iranians may be seeking to take the heat off Moscow.

Mr. Safari told reporters in the Russian capital Friday that Moscow had agreed to finish the power plant near the Gulf port city of Bushehr at a cost of \$800 million, IRNA reported.

He said Iran had spent \$3.5 billion on the facility before work was stopped by its original German contractors following the 1979 revolution.

The project was started by Kraftwerke Union, a Siemens subsidiary, five years before the revolution which toppled the pro-Western Iranian monarchy and brought Muslim fundamentalist rule to Iran.

Germany has since refused export permits for vital equipment for the facility, which was damaged in Iraqi bombing raids during the 1980-88 Gulf war.

Earlier reports indicated that Russia would finish work in the 1,300-megawatt reactor within three years.

U.S. officials have suggested Iran intends to buy up to four nuclear reactors from Russia. They have warned Tehran could use the technology to speed up an alleged clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

Iran has dismissed Israeli and U.S. assessments that it may be only five to 10 years away from developing its own atomic bomb and insists the reactors would be used only to generate electricity.

Some experts on Iraq doubt whether the country has the capacity or the know-how to sustain a clandestinely acquired nuclear programme.

U.S. diplomats have warned Russian officials that providing nuclear technology to Iran is dangerous, and that Tehran cannot afford to pay for it anyhow.

But Mr. Safari insisted: "Although Iran does not claim to be a very rich country, it can afford the required capital for realising the project."

Crackdown on foreigners sparks exodus from Libya

Lebanon keeps its door closed against Palestinians with non-Lebanese papers

SALLOUM, Egypt (Agencies) — Hundreds of Egyptians and Sudanese are fleeing Libya to escape a police crackdown on illegal immigrants, Egyptian travellers said on Saturday.

They said many had been made homeless as Libyans feared to give them shelter because of a sweep following Wednesday's clashes in Benghazi in which around 20 militants and 10 policemen were reported to have died.

"Hundreds of Egyptians and Sudanese have been caught by the Libyan authorities because they don't have a work contract which has forced them to leave the country to avoid problems," one traveller said.

Security has also been stepped up since Wednesday's unrest, Egyptian travellers said. Tripoli, itself, has seen a number of clashes took place in the eastern city.

Libyan security men at the Messed border post with Egypt had "a list of suspects, and were questioning people in detail and combing vehicles," another traveller told AFP.

The travellers at the Salloom border post said hundreds of Sudanese had also been sent back in the past few days across the Libya-Sudan border.

The repatriations were confirmed by a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in the Egyptian capital who told AFP that "several hundred" people had been affected.

Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir has ordered preparations to be made for the influx, newspapers in Khartoum reported.

Meanwhile, Lebanon said its doors would stay closed to Palestinian workers being thrown out of Libya, even those who had Lebanese travel documents, because it could not cope with mass arrivals.

On Friday, Beirut ordered the closure of sea routes between the two countries, and reports that hundreds of expelled Palestinians were heading for Lebanon.

Interior Minister Michel Murr announced the "preventive measure" after about 350 Palestinians had entered Lebanon in recent days from Libya carrying special Lebanese travel documents issued to refugees.

"It's a temporary measure

to halt the influx until the cabinet takes a final decision on this issue," he said.

The cabinet is not likely to meet before Wednesday because Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is currently on a private visit to France.

Travel to and from Libya, which is under United Nations sanctions for refusing to hand over suspects in the 1987 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet in which 290 people were killed, is restricted to sea and land routes because of an aviation ban.

The government cannot stop Palestinians who have legal status in Lebanon from coming through other countries.

Mr. Murr said those who have already entered the country legally cannot be deported.

About 325,000 Palestinians live in Lebanon, mainly in 11 refugee camps.

Only those who arrived in Lebanon in 1948, and their offsprings — totalling about 150,000 — have legal status and carry special Lebanese travel documents.

There are some 30,000 Palestinians in Libya. In a Sept. 1 speech marking the 26th anniversary of the military coup that put him in power, Libyan leader Colonel Qadhafi urged Arab countries to expel Palestinians to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to expose what he called the deception of the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

Col. Qadhafi is a staunch opponent of the self-rule accord with Israel.

Iraqis resigned, tearful over sanctions extension

BAGHDAD (R) — Women scoured a Baghdad market on Saturday in search of a few onions and tomatoes while small, barefooted boys wearing torn trousers begged for food and money.

It was the day after the United Nations Security Council decided yet again not to modify the Gulf war sanctions that have devastated Iraq's oil-fuelled economy, and Iraqis were having to bear up under the strain, as they have now for five years.

"Only Allah can fill my basket again with vegetables, meat and chicken," said Um Mujbil, her eyes filled with tears. "See? Even onions and tomatoes are now too expensive to buy."

Shoppers, gloomy and disappointed, feared another hike in prices of essential commodities, already out of reach of most Iraqis.

The sanctions have caused hyperinflation and a drastic decline in the value of the Iraqi dinar. Two kilos of meat or chicken now cost more than what most civil servants earn in a month.

The country's elite and officials, meanwhile, saw little prospect of change in the sanctions, imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Salah Al Mukhtar, editor-in-chief of the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya, said in a television interview late on Friday that he did not believe sanctions would be lifted in the foreseeable future.

"I do not say the embargo will be lifted within months. I do not say three months. We need a period of six months to rearrange Iraq's conditions with the U.N.... and continue the march of removing obstacles leading to the lifting of the economic embargo," Mr. Mukhtar said.

Two months ago, many Iraqis entertained the hope of an easing of the oil embargo following a rather positive report by the U.N.'s chief arms inspector, Rolf Ekeus.

The main stipulation for lifting the sanctions is that Iraq dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and provide documentation on past weapons programmes.

But all hope was shattered when Iraq made startling revelations about its chemical warfare and nuclear bomb programmes in a bid to preempt disclosures by a key government defector who fled to Jordan on Aug. 8.

Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein,

who fled to Jordan with his family and another of President Saddam's sons-in-law, was widely believed to be the brains of Iraq's military and civil industries.

Iraq afterwards revealed that it had loaded 200 bombs and warheads with lethal germs and toxins and went on a crash programme to test a nuclear bomb in 1991.

The United States, the main advocate of sanctions on Iraq, called on Friday for a reevaluation of long-term U.N. monitoring of Baghdad's weapons following the disclosures.

U.S. Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Edward Gnehm said that "Iraq has totally squandered what little credibility, if any, it had."

Iraq admits that Hussein Kamel's defection and the subsequent disclosures of hidden arms information has had a negative impact on its case at the Security Council.

But the politics of it were lost on women shoppers in Baghdad.

"We only say, 'May Allah curse those responsible for the sanctions,'" said Sa'diya Hameed. "What's our fault? It is a political game and we are the victims."

Palestinians protest Halhoul killing

HALHOUL (R) — Hundreds of angry Palestinians marched in the West Bank town of Halhoul on Saturday in protest against the killing of an Arab man by masked men wearing Israeli army uniforms, witnesses said.

An Israeli militant group called Eyal sent electronic messages to Israeli reporters on Friday saying it shot dead Salman Zamari, 25, at his home in Halhoul. The group said the killing was part of its struggle against the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal.

Witnesses said more than 1,500 people carrying pictures of Zamari, Palestinian flags and placards denouncing the murder marched from the centre of Halhoul to his family's home via the cemetery where he was buried.

"Rest in peace Salman, your people will avenge your death," the crowd chanted. Israeli soldiers stayed away from the march. About 40 Palestinian youths with their faces covered with masks burned a U.S. flag at the start of the protest.

Over 70% of Israelis favour talks with PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Fifty-four per cent of Israelis think the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is a "terrorist" organisation but an overwhelming majority believe that peace talks with the group should continue, according to a poll announced Saturday.

The survey of 800 Israelis was conducted by the statistics department at the University of Haifa — 14 months before the next legislative elections.

According to the poll read on Israeli radio, 54 per cent of those interviewed consider PLO leader Yasser Arafat the "head of a terrorist organisation" while 20 per cent consider him the head of a "political movement."

Another 13.5 per cent consider him a partner in negotiations and less than one per cent think of him as a "friend."

Despite these feelings, 72 per cent of Israelis believe that negotiations with the PLO should continue.

If right-wing opposition Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu comes to power, 51 per cent said he should continue talks with Mr. Arafat, 21 per cent want them differently, and 21

per cent said the negotiations should be stopped.

Asked the same question, 31 per cent of voters affiliated with the Israeli right-wing parties said talks should continue, 30 per cent want their direction changed, and 32 per cent are against them.

On Mr. Arafat's image since the declaration of principles an autonomy signed in September 1993, 61 per cent of Israelis said he has not changed, 25 per cent see him in a "less negative" light and eight per cent "more negative."

The majority of Israelis believe that a Palestinian state can exist next to the Jewish state, with 31 per cent responding favourably without reservations, while 41 per cent said such a state could exist "under certain conditions."

Only 26 per cent of those interviewed opposed the idea.

The remaining percentage points in the poll are those who did not respond.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram said "The results prove that Israelis have made the distinction between what they think of Yasser Arafat and the imperatives of the peace process."

COLUMN

First Prince William story hits British tabloids

LONDON (R) — Britain's media were asked to leave Prince William, second in line to the throne, in peace once he started lessons at Eton College. On Saturday, just two days into term, the first "royal exclusive" hit the front pages. "Wetudo in Eton raid" read the headline on the best-selling Sun, revealing how "matron hits panic button as intruder breaks into school on Wills' second day". A matron at the fee-paying school, considered Britain's most elite educational establishment, pressed a panic security button when she found the intruder in a dormitory. Police then arrested the unnamed woman, the Sun said. There was no indication she got anywhere near Prince William. The Sun said the 31-year-old woman had been a man before a sex change operation. She had mental problems and a moustache. The future king, son of heir to the throne Prince Charles and Princess Diana, started lessons Thursday after a high-profile arrival with his estranged parents the day before. The media have been sternly warned by Britain's press regulator not to invade the prince's privacy after capturing his first moments.

Senegalese president returns after surgery

DAKAR (reuter) — Senegalese President Abdou Diouf returned home after six weeks of medical treatment in Paris. Mr. Diouf, 60, told reporters at the airport he had made a full recovery from back surgery. He left Senegal on July 26.

Man jailed for torn lottery ticket scam

LONDON (AFP) — A British man who claimed his dog had torn up a winning lottery ticket, and tried to obtain a six-figure prize by presenting bits of different tickets, was given a one-year jail sentence. James Madel, 23, had gone to the offices of Camelot, the private company which runs the British lottery, after the first-ever draw on Nov. 21 last year. Claiming £839,000 (\$1.34 million) as a share of the £6 million (\$9.6 million) jackpot, he contacted the press and posed for photographers. Mr. Madel claimed that the two halves of the ticket in his possession were from the same winning one, torn to pieces by his pet dog. His lawyer said during the trial that the young man, a delivery driver and part-time model, had a rather unstable character and lived in a fantasy world. He insisted that his client did not really intend to swindle Camelot, but only wanted to attract publicity. Mr. Madel had already been sentenced to three years in prison in May 1993 for a string of minor offences, but was freed after serving half his sentence.

Family elders seek meeting on Mandela divorce

EAST LONDON, South Africa (AP) — Elders in the tribal families of President Nelson Mandela and his estranged wife Winnie want to try to prevent the couple from divorcing. Mr. Mandela, 77, has ordered his lawyers to seek a divorce which Mrs. Mandela reportedly will contest. The couple, who have two children and several grandchildren, separated in 1992. According to Xhosa tribal tradition, elderly clan members intervene in troubled marriages by holding a meeting with the couple to learn what problems exist. Nelson Mandela comes from the Tembu clan, while Winnie comes from the Royal Madikizela clan of the Pondos.

Paris issues arrest warrant for suspect in Lyons bomb

VAULX-EN-VELIN, France (AFP) — A search warrant was issued Saturday for a man regarded as the main suspect in an attempted bomb attack on a TGV line near Lyon last month, police said.

The man was identified by the French interior ministry as Khaled Kelkal, a 24-year-old man born in the Algerian town of Mostaganem, whose fingerprints were found on the unexploded bomb. The ministry issued a photograph of the suspect.

A total of 31 people were arrested in a police swoop on suspected extremists in the Lyon area early Saturday, but contrary to earlier reports the fingerprints found on the bomb were those of Kelkal and did not correspond to any of the detainees.

The Lyon swoop, carried out jointly by 150 police officers from Paris and Lyon, was conducted after Kelkal's fingerprints were identified, sources close to the investigation said.

The 31 detainees are currently being questioned at police headquarters in Lyon. Police said most of those arrested had connections with extremists.

Vaulx-en-Valin is a north-eastern suburb of Lyon with a strong concentration of North Africans and has been marked by riots in the past.

Other Lyon suburbs targeted by police Saturday included La Dorchere and Neuville-sur-Sanne in the northwest.

One police spokesman commented that "a can of worms has been opened."

The arrests were carried out on the orders of Paris examining magistrate, Laurence Le Vert.

The raid occurred on August 26, when a gas canister device planted alongside the track used by the high-speed TVG trains from Paris to Lyon failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.

Five days after the discovery of the device, police rounded up about 20 suspects in the Lyon area. Four of them have since been charged with offences "linked to a terrorist organisation."

On Thursday, a car bomb exploded Thursday outside a Jewish school in the Lyon suburb of Villeurbanne only minutes before 700 pupils were due to go home. Fourteen people were injured.

It was the sixth bombing or attempted attack in as many weeks.

On Friday the government announced that it was implementing an emergency anti-terrorist plan, sending the military onto the streets to reinforce security and back up civilian police.

By Friday night, armed troops were already patrolling the most popular tourist areas in the French capital, where the first and most deadly attack occurred on July 25.

Seven people were killed and 117 wounded when a bomb exploded in a carriage of a suburban underground train at the Saint Michel station right in the heart of the city.

A few weeks later on August 17, a gas canister packed with nails exploded in a rubbish bin near the Arc de Triomphe injuring 17 people, three seriously, most of them tourists.

Earlier this month, two markets in the capital were targeted. On Sept. 3, four women were slightly injured when a bomb exploded at a market on the Boulevard Richard Lenoir, eastern Paris. Casualties could have been much higher, but the powerful device, placed inside a pressure cooker, failed to function properly.

The following day another bomb was defused in a public toilet on Place Charles-Vallon in southwest Paris, also the site of a busy Sunday morning market. The 25-kilogramme gas canister device had been programmed to go off at the same time as the Richard Lenoir bomb but failed to actuate.